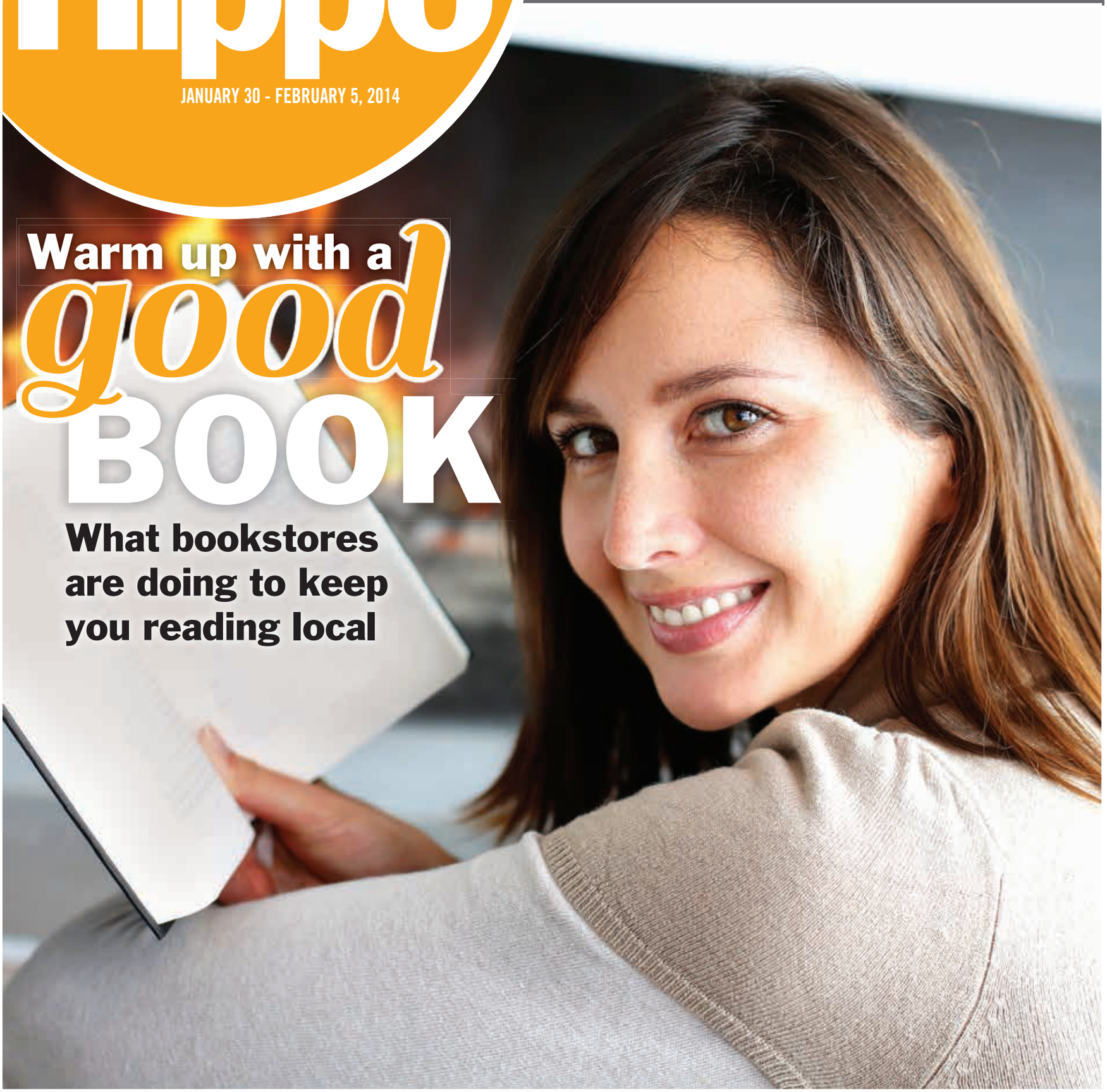
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JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2014

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LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



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What bookstores are doing to keep you reading local

INSIDE: MUSIC FOR YOUR WEEKEND

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GRANITE VIEWS **PATRICK DUFFY**

How will 2013 look?



As we suffer through these frigid temperatures of the new year, questions arise as to what keeps us carrying on with our everyday activities. Even though the backyard ice skating rinks are in good form, these temperatures test the mettle of us all. Some of us find that this time of year is ideal for catching up on our reading.

A fascinating book that my wife recommended, *One Summer, America, 1927*, by Bill Bryson, tells the tale of what captured the attention of the public nearly a century ago. You may not recall, but one of the signature events of the 20th century took place in May of that year, the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic by Charles Lindbergh. This phenomenal accomplishment made him world famous and thrust the role of aviation into the limelight. Several other exceptional things happened that summer, including Babe Ruth's setting the home run record of 60, which lasted for nearly half a century. Charles Ponzi was sentenced to prison for investment fraud, ending up about $10 million in the hole at the collapse of his scheme, the equivalent of $100 million today. The U.S. president was a person with New England roots, Calvin Coolidge, who unfortunately was best known for his time away from the job, such as taking a relaxing three-month vacation.

I need also to mention that this was the era when newspapers were at their pinnacle as the primary source of news, with radio in its infancy and television yet to make its debut. New York City had more than 12 daily newspapers, and even Manchester had several newspapers with both morning and evening editions. How things have changed!

This gives rise to the question of how will the year 2013 look to those reflecting back 50+ years from now. I suspect that many will wonder why it took so long to change to a healthcare system with a single-payer provision. Certainly people will look back and wonder why all the fuss over the issue of same-sex marriage. The history books will have recorded an inept Congress that resorted to a shutdown of the government rather than work to address the needs of the country. I also need to include a reference to our beloved Red Sox, who will certainly be revered as the dominant team in major league baseball in this period of the early 21st century!

Much of our societal angst seems out of reach, but history tells us we as a country eventually resolve our issues. We will have to count on our grandchildren to take stock in 2050.

***Patrick Duffy** has served as commissioner of the N.H. Department of Administrative Services, in senior management positions with Verizon and as chair of Manchester Airport Authority. He has been on the board of numerous local organizations. He is a retired Colonel, U.S. Air Force.*

the Hippo

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2014
VOL 14 NO 5

News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire
Published every Thursday
(1st copy free; 2nd $1).
49 Hollis St., Manchester, N.H. 03101
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
www.hippopress.com
e-mail: news@hippopress.com

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor
Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com, ext. 29

Managing Editor
Meghan Siegler, msiegler@hippopress.com, ext. 13

Editorial Design
Ashley McCarty, hippolayout@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com

Staff Writers
Emelia Attridge
eattridge@hippopress.com, ext. 30
Kaitlin Joseph
listings@hippopress.com, ext. 10
Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com, ext. 12
Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com, ext. 36

Contributors Deidre Ashe, Joel Bergeron, Sid Ceaser, Allison Willson Dudas, Rick Ganley, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Dave Long, Lauren Mifsud, Stefanie Phillips, Eric W. Saeger, Sarah Shemkus, Gil Talbot, Michael Witthaus.
To reach the newsroom call 625-1855, ext. 13.

Listings
Arts listings: arts@hippopress.com
Inside/Outside listings: listings@hippopress.com
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Music listings: music@hippopress.com

BUSINESS

Publisher
Jody Reese, Ext. 21

Associate Publisher
Dan Szczesny

Associate Publisher
Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 23

Production
Katie Ruiz, Andrew Mason, Joshua Falkenburg, Ken Duquet,

Circulation Manager
Doug Ladd, Ext. 35

Advertising Manager
Charlene Cesarini, Ext. 26

Account Executives
Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026
Katharine Stickney, Ext. 44
Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 27
Lorian Jewett, Ext. 31
Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 25

Reception & Bookkeeping
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14 READ LOCAL
Independent booksellers know a thing or two about keeping their book-loving customers happy. Kelly Sennott talked to indie store owners about how they're staying relevant in an e-reader world.



Also on the cover, find out which football fare you need in your Super Bowl spread, p. 42. And it's back — the ice bar at Bedford Village Inn, this year featuring sculpted penguins and soul-warming drinks (p. 48). Finally, if you've got a hankering to hear live music, check out our Music This Week listings, starting on p. 70.

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NEWS & NOTES



Wind energy

As the New Hampshire House considered legislation that would block clean and renewable wind power, environmental, business and elected officials joined Environment New Hampshire to release a new report that documents the environmental benefits of wind power and discuss the importance of wind energy.

The report found that New Hampshire's existing wind energy prevents more than 157,267 metric tons of climate-altering carbon pollution, the equivalent of taking 32,764 cars off the road, while it also saves 70,265,000 gallons of water per year, enough to meet the needs of 2,567 people. It also shows that wind energy is now providing 260,000 megawatt-hours of electricity in New Hampshire.

Environment New Hampshire stated that if state and federal officials commit to continued progress, carbon pollution would be reduced by an amount equivalent to more than 30,163 passenger vehicles and save enough water to meet the annual water needs of nearly 2,700 people. Local critics of wind energy, like New Hampshire Wind Watch, argue that wind turbines harm birds and wildlife, lower property values, are not cost-effective and do not decrease carbon dioxide emissions.

Trump, politics and eggs

Last Tuesday, Donald Trump drew a full house as the guest speaker of the latest installment of Politics and Eggs, held at Saint Anselm College, WMUR reported. The series is a forum for potential presidential candidates as well as other political analysts and commentators. The visit was Trump's first to the Granite State since 2011. He addressed a mostly conservative audience on issues including the economy, Iran and the challenges facing the New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as a result of his bridge scandal. Trump told the audience it was only a matter of time before states like New Hampshire follow Colorado's lead and legalize marijuana. He said he is unsure whether he will run for the 2016 presidential spot, but he has planned another visit in April.

Help for highways

Budget shortfalls have the New Hampshire Department of Transportation still wondering how to pay for the state's many road and bridge improvements. Several bills are on the table to funnel more money into the state's highway fund, NHPR reported last week. Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, D-Manchester, plans to reintroduce legislation from 2013 that would license a single casino with 5,000 slot machines and 150 table games. There are also three proposals this year that would once again attempt to create more revenue by raising the state's gas tax, which has remained at 18 cents per gallon since 1992.

Sen. Jim Rausch, R-Derry, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, wants to link the gas tax to the Consumer Price Index, a standard measure of inflation, according to NHPR. His proposal would raise the tax 4 cents this year and generate $28 million for the Department of Transportation. Rep. Candace Bouchard, D-Concord, who chairs the House Transportation Committee, wants to extend the tax to drivers of vehicles that use alternative fuels. Bouchard's bill would mostly apply to commercial and governmental fleets making the switch to natural gas and propane.

MLK food drive

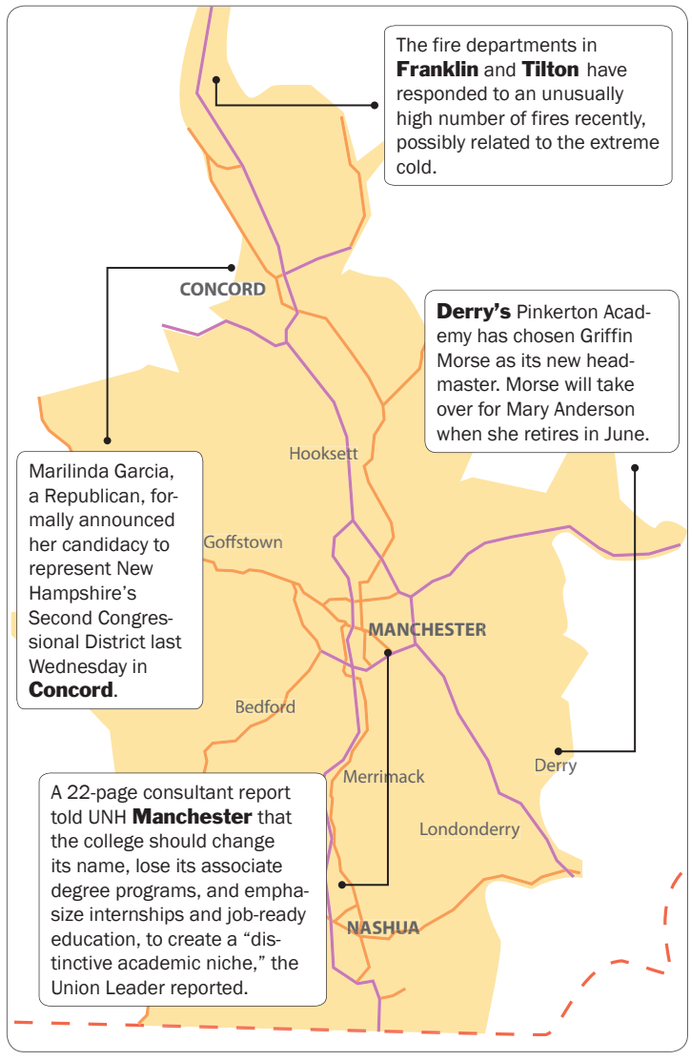
Two hundred AmeriCorps members from across New Hampshire and 30 other states celebrated the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Manchester by holding a food drive to benefit citizens in need, according to a press release. Emphasizing that "Hunger Doesn't End After the Holidays," the food drive engaged hundreds of families making voluntary donations to support the estimated 50,000 New Hampshire children who do not have a consistent source of food. In preparation for the MLK Day food collections, dozens of AmeriCorps volunteers knocked on doors and left fliers at some 3,000 homes in the greater Manchester area on Saturday, Jan. 18. The drive collected over 2,000 pounds of nonperishable food.

Immigrant tuition

Last week, the New Hampshire House voted in favor of House Bill 747, which allows children of undocumented immigrants to be eligible for in-state tuition in the New Hampshire university system, according to a press release. The House voted 188 to 155 in favor of the bill, which allows young people who have resided in New Hampshire, attended a New Hampshire high school for a minimum of three years, are pursuing citizenship and meet all other requirements of in-state status and admission requirements to receive in-state tuition rates. While proponents defended the bill as an education issue, not an immigration issue, its opponents argued the bill is not fair to legal immigrants or to students born out of state, the Eagle-Tribune reported.

Unemployment plateaus

The state's December 2013 unemployment was 5.1 percent, the same rate as November, according to the New Hampshire Employment Security office. The seasonally adjusted rate for New Hampshire was 5.7 percent in December. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate last month was 6.7 percent, a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from November, and a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the December 2012 rate, the Associated Press reported. The number of employed residents for the month was down 140 people from the previous month but up 450 people from December 2012.



Hassan for pay equity

Gov. Maggie Hassan is recommending that lawmakers pass a bill to address pay equity between men and women, according to the Associated Press. She says more than half the women in New Hampshire are either the primary or co-breadwinners in their families but on average earn 77 cents on the dollar compared to men in comparable jobs. Hassan submitted a letter to the Senate Commerce Committee in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would update state law to eliminate loopholes, increase transparency in wages and ensure all workers have the appropriate resources to help them earn a fair paycheck, the AP reported.

BEST WEEK

AT-RISK YOUTH

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation received a $2.25 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation that will fund a screening program designed to reduce substance abuse among youth and young adults in New Hampshire. The grant will enable the foundation to expand the use of screening, brief interventions and referral to treatment programs to patients from ages 12 to 22, with the goal of stopping substance abuse before it starts. New Hampshire ranks highest in the nation for its rate of underage drinking, second highest for its rate of regular marijuana use by children ages 12 to 17, and fifth highest for its rate of young adult binge drinking.

WORST WEEK

NH DRIVERS

Authorities say 133 people died in 122 accidents on the state's roadways in 2013. That's more deaths in a year than the state has seen in the last five years, the Associated Press reported. The last fatal accident of the year, on New Year's Eve, claimed the life of 17-year-old Kyle Ross, of Derry. Lt. Matt Shapiro, commander of state police special services units, said fatalities for 2013 were up 20 percent over 2012, but the causes behind highway deaths remain the same and include drug or alcohol impaired driving, distracted driving, speed and failure to use seatbelts. Shapiro said texting while driving is an increasing problem, as are other tech-related actions like manipulating GPS systems.

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"The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-13-001 from the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services." "The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies."

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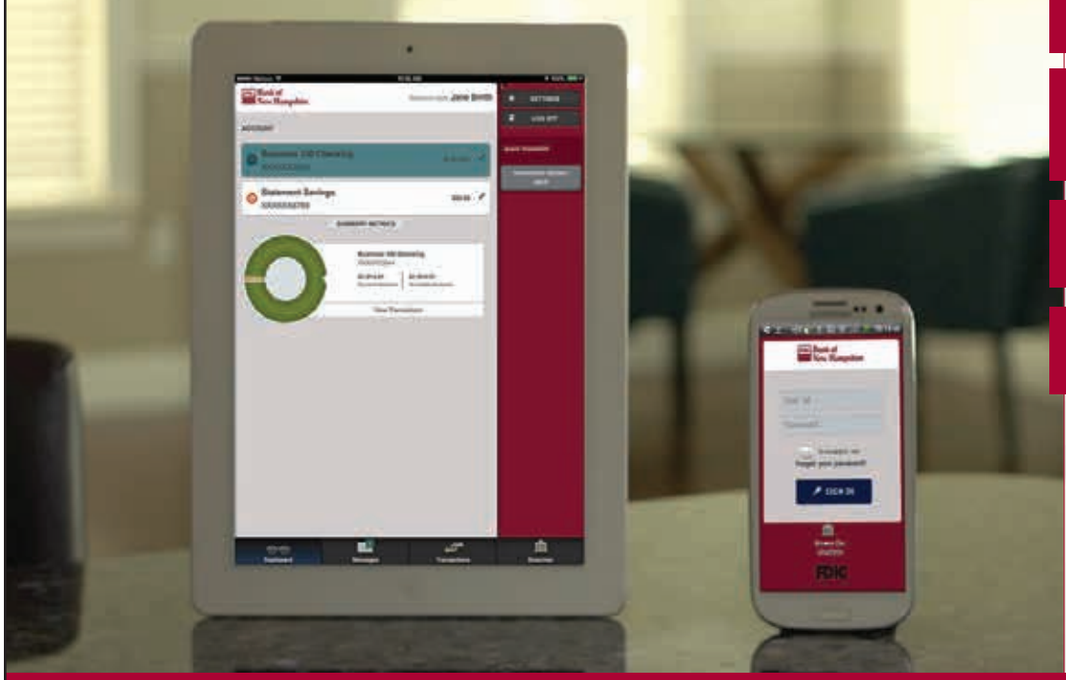
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Third-grade literacy solution

Reading Plus helps Manchester combat low reading proficiency rates

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

How a person reads in the third grade could determine their success decades later.

This is the premise that Granite United Way, a nonprofit that invests in areas of the community with critical needs, discovered when it was trying to find one single issue that plays a role in a number of social issues.

"If you move one lever, how can you move other levers to get more bang for your buck?" said Meredith Stidham, associate vice president of measures and outcomes at Granite United Way.

In their research, Stidham and her colleague, Jodi Harper, the nonprofit's director of literacy and BRING IT!!! Community Collaboration, found that while there's no silver bullet, literacy is a big piece of what it means to be successful later in life.

> *"One of the connections to literacy certainly is income, and district-wide we have 52 percent of our children living in low-income households."*
>
> DR. DEBRA LIVINGSTON

Kids on track with reading are far more likely to graduate on time and less likely to use drugs. They are also better critical thinkers, more likely to land jobs that sustain their families as adults, and more likely to follow physicians' advice, Stidham said. Those findings are in line with The Annie E. Casey 2012 report that stated about 16 percent of students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade do not graduate from high school on time.

Reading Plus

For the past four years, the Manchester School District has been about 25 percent below the statewide average on NECAP test scores, said Manchester School District Superintendent Dr. Debra Livingston.

"One of the connections to literacy certainly is income, and district-wide we have 52 percent of our children living in low-income households," Livingston said.

With a focus on greater Manchester, the Granite United Way paired up with the Morgridge College of Education in Denver in a dollar-for-dollar match to bring Reading Plus to New Hampshire.

Reading Plus is a software-based reading support system. Each third-grader gets an individual sign-on that follows him no matter where he logs on. The lesson a student starts on any given day is prepared for him based on how he performed during his last sign-on.

The program focuses on silent reading skills like left-right tracking, motor skills and reading comprehension. And thanks to the high-tech nature of the program, educators are able to receive highly individualized feedback about each student's reading readiness.

A pilot program for the Manchester School District was introduced to one third-grade classroom at Smyth Road School in the fall of 2012. This year it has seen a major expansion, and Granite United Way has made an investment to work with 12,000 readers in the district and has spent a total of $90,000.

So far, so good

Data from the pilot year at Smyth Road School showed major increases in reading abilities. Students spent the second half of the school year using Reading Plus at least three times a week.

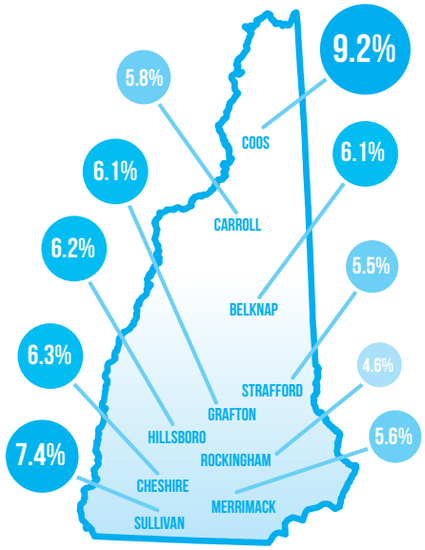
On average students improved their reading by two and a half levels. Every student began the program not ready for fourth grade (according to literacy standards), but by the end of the year 15 of the 21 kids were on target or ahead of where they needed to be for fourth grade. Every student in the class also improved by at least one grade level.

More plans in progress

The Manchester School Board has been working to establish goals for literacy, Livingston said. In addition to expanding the use of Reading Plus, those goals will include an increased focus on children up to 5 years old and developing interventions for children by reading specialists who can diagnose trouble areas and show teachers how to help them.

"I studied in Japan, and that was the first time I ever felt what it must be like to be unable to read because everywhere I went it was in Japanese," Livingston said. "I was lost. I had no idea. I can't imagine a child feeling that way and then growing up and still feeling that way."

Percent of population age 16 and older that lacks basic prose literacy skills



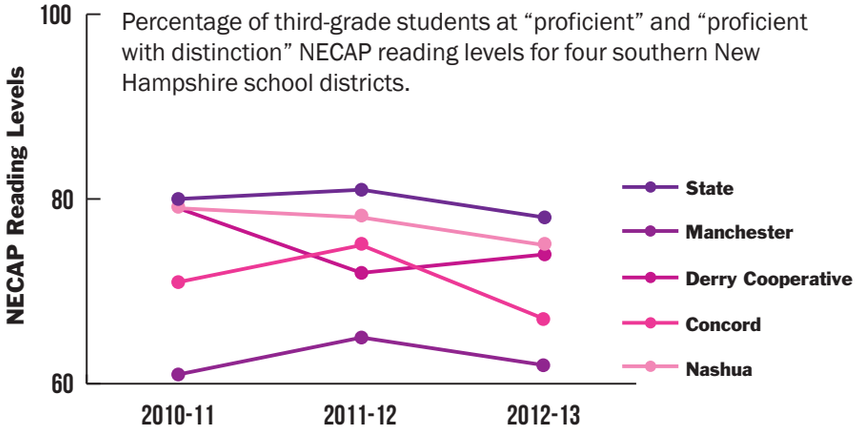
Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. For more information, visit: countyhealthrankings.org.

Livingston said she also hopes to help parents become aware of summer education options. During the summer there is a learning dip, especially for students in low-income homes, and they can lose some of the skills that they learned in the previous school year, she said. But children who visit the library in the summer start the next year at or above where they left off.

"Parents don't always have the capacity to have kids in museums or have books in the home," she said. "Part of educating children is showing parents resources."

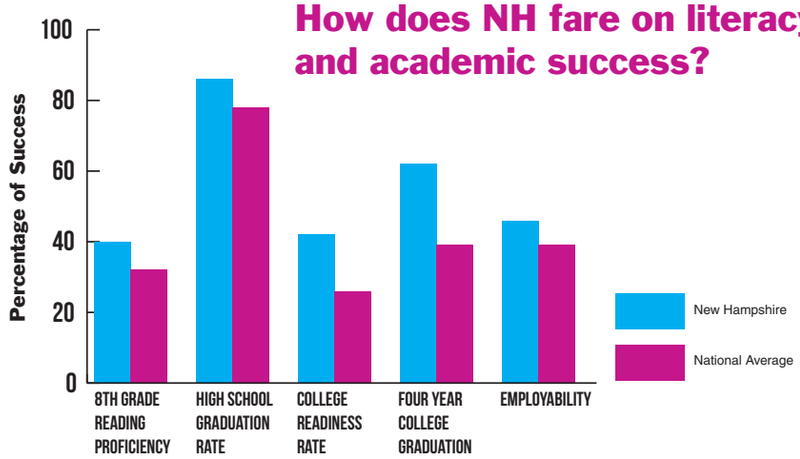
Districts compared

Percentage of third-grade students at "proficient" and "proficient with distinction" NECAP reading levels for four southern New Hampshire school districts.



Source: New Hampshire Department of Education.

How does NH fare on literacy and academic success?



Source: Alliance for Excellent Education, state-by-state data. For more information on how these numbers were calculated, visit all4ed.org/state-data/new-hampshire/

NHRebels of reform

Advocates walk to fight campaign finance reform

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

As members of the campaign finance reform project NHRebellion prepared for an 11-mile stretch of their cross-state march last week, temperatures hovered below 10 degrees.

In the lobby of the Comfort Inn in Manchester, a group of about 25 marchers, many of whom are New Hampshire natives, zipped themselves into layers of fleece and North Face gear and lined their pockets with hand warmers. Walk organizers reminded everyone to be safe while exposed to harsh weather and road traffic.

"Hopefully everyone's wearing long underwear,"said Japhet Els, the trip director. "Keep an eye on each other. If you see white spots on your neighbor's cheeks, tell us right away."

From Jan. 10 to Jan. 24 a group of 16 through-walkers, plus anywhere from 30 to 60 more walkers on any given day, tackled the elements in efforts to encourage citizens in New Hampshire to make what NHRebellion calls the "system of corruption" pervading the country's government the central issue in the 2016 presidential primary. It's the first of the NHRebellion's three planned cross-state treks before before the primaries.

NHRebellion, a project of Rootstrikers, is the brainchild of Lawrence Lessig, a professor of law and leadership at Harvard Law School, director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University and founder of Rootstrikers, an activist network opposed to corruption in government.

"When I decided to do this I kind of expected we would have like five or six people. But it's turned into something incredibly big, with lots of people. And more interesting is how many people in New Hampshire know what we're doing," Lessig said.

On their first day, heading south from Dixville Notch, Lessig and his posse were hit with an intense ice storm. Nearly two weeks later, the group began the last legs of the 185-mile march in good spirits.

First-district Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter bundled up to join them for the beginning of the trek.

"Thank you for doing this" Shea-Porter told the group. "I'm in Congress and know we can't reform ourselves alone. We need all of you to do this."

They soldiered over mounds of snow, single file, holding up signs and waving at drivers who honked as they drove by.

"They honk and they are encouraging which is nice, and they slow down, which is nice," said Peterborough resident Dotti Penny, who held signs throughout the walk to alert cars. "There are so many interesting people and so much information that I just would not have had contact with if I didn't join."



NHRebellion marched through Manchester last week. Rebecca Fishow photo.

The issue: big money corruption

Before Lessig zeroed in on the corrupting influence of big money, he'd been researching Internet and copyright issues since about 1999. In 2007, 23-year old Aaron Swartz asked Lessig how he expected to make any progress on other issues so long as corruption defines our government. (Swartz, who became a national icon for anti-corruption and Internet-freedom, later took his own life while facing prosecution on multiple hacking charges.) The elemental question Swartz asked him prompted Lessig to stop his work on Internet and copyright issues and focus exclusively on corruption.

Lessig and other marchers use the word corruption a lot, but they are not calling politicians or congress corrupt, said Szelena Gray, media relations for NHRebellion. Rather, they assert that the framework politicians have been working within is corrupt.

"The problem within our system is not the amount of money, or the amount of political ads. … It's the way the money is raised," Lessig said. "If you spend all of your time raising money from the tiniest fraction of the 1 percent, you can't help but be bent towards the interest of the people you're raising money from."

Lessig said the most important factor in getting elected or re-elected is the amount of money candidates raise from big donors. In order to get re-elected, politicians have to keep their funders happy first. He said members of Congress and candidates for Congress spend from 30 to 70 percent of their time raising money, which means they are not focusing

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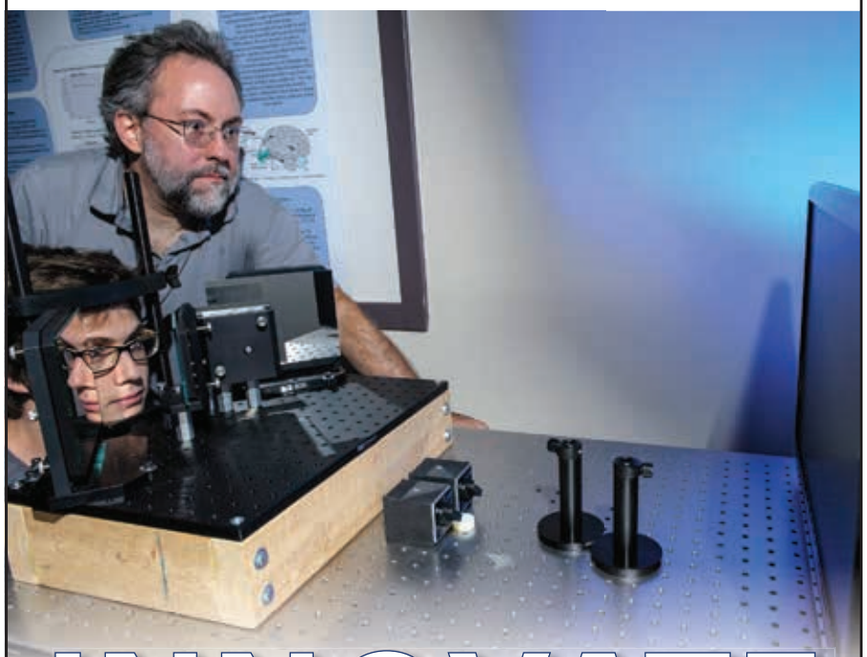
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on making policies or governing. And when they are, he said, they have big funders' interests in mind.

"It's not that the people with the money are using the money to push policy towards the best possible policy. They are using their money and their intelligence to push it towards the policy that benefits them," Lessig said.

Grey said the group talks broadly about what "corruption" means because they want people to understand that the government is broken, and they aspire to engage a wide population of voters beyond the partisan divide.

They saw that happen during their walk. For instance, at the beginning of last week, they were joined by a New Hampshire couple. The man was conservative and woman identified as progressive, Grey said. But this is an issue they agree on.

The walk's genesis

Last October, Lessig spoke at a New Hampshire event and Jeff McLean, a political reformer and nonprofit supporter, was in the audience. They got together and discussed creating a New Hampshire-based front. The began planning last November and released those plans in December.

The march brings together three key symbols: Granny D, Swartz, and the Granite State. As the first state in a series of nationwide party primary elections, New Hampshire has the political spotlight to be influential nationwide, Lessig said. In addition to the marches he hopes to have meetups and educational opportunities to recruit people to advocate for campaign finance reform, which could then translate into widespread attention and focus for the upcoming elections.

The idea of walking came from New Hampshire native Doris "Granny D" Haddock. Fifteen years ago, 88 year-old Granny D walked more than 3,200 miles across the country to advocate for campaign finance reform. As a nod to her, the NHRebellion ended its march on her birthday, Jan. 24.

When Lessig measured the walk, he realized the end date would mean they would begin around Jan. 11, the day that Swartz committed suicide a year ago.

"Swartz was obsessively focused on pushing, on making the world a better place according to his own conception. … That was his life. He was constantly going and collaborating and pushing," Lessig said.

The two bookend dates represent the advocates' desire to link generations that are all affected by issues of corruption.

"You want a simpler tax system? You're not going to get it," Lessig said. "You're not going to get global warming legislation. You're not going to get real healthcare reform, or Wall Street reform as long as this is the way we fund elections. ...We have to change the way we raise money."

WHAT THE BILL

HOUSE BILL 123: Protections from frivolous lawsuits by emergency responders

Whenever a firefighter, police officer, medical emergency technician or other public safety officer steps onto a person's private property, he is putting himself at risk of injury. He could trip over a toy left in a front yard or fall through a rotten step. Until Jan. 1, there were no laws in place protecting homeowners from having legal action taken against them in case of these types of accidental injuries to public safety officers. That changed when **House Bill 123** went into effect on the first of the year.

The new law extends the limitation of liability for negligence to all negligence claims based upon injury related to the performance of a public safety officer's official duties.

Now, no emergency workers have cause of action for injuries from negligent conduct in these cases. The law does not include instances that involve other negligent conduct, or reckless or willful acts of misconduct.

"To my knowledge there was no liability protection for homeowners [before] the genesis of the bill," said state Rep. David Boutin (R-Hooksett), who supported the bill. "Most of us in the legislature felt pretty strongly that, let's say your kid's bike is out in the front yard. You call an ambulance and the EMT walks by and breaks their leg on the bike. It doesn't seem logical that he would want to sue."

These types of "frivolous lawsuits" did not happen often, but the bill was proposed after a lawsuit of its type became highly publicized in February 2012, Boutin said. At that time, an Epping Fire Department fiirefighter pursued a lawsuit after he responded to a fire and slipped and fell in a homeowner's driveway back in 2008, according to a CBS report. At first, the lawsuit was thrown out, but the New Hampshire Supreme Court reversed that decision and ruled that emergency responders do have the right to sue for negligence.

That ruling made emergency responders nervous. They worried the state's residents would be hesitant to call 911 in case of emergencies. They don't have to worry about that anymore.

"Generally speaking, it's going to protect homeowners from frivolous lawsuits," Boutin said. — *Rebecca Fishow*

Pageant perfect

Bridget Brunet takes the Miss New Hampshire crown

New Hampshire native Bridget Brunet is no stranger to turning her dreams into realities. Two years ago she started her own party planning company, Bridget Brunet Weddings and Events in Hampton Falls. This year, she doubled up her workload to prepare for the Miss New Hampshire USA pageant. It paid off when she won the title Jan. 19. Brunet talked with The Hippo about balancing work and the competition, shedding 20 pounds in three months and dealing with on-stage jitters.

Q: How did you get involved with pageants?

I did the Miss Teen New Hampshire pageant twice in high school in 2005 and 2006. My parents were not into pageants. I would see them on TV, and it just looked so fun. I would sign myself up. My parents were there for support, but they had no idea what was going on. They were just like, 'Go Bridget!' I took a break and then I was watching Miss New Hampshire last year. I just had a feeling I should do it. It's always been like a dream of mine, and this was the last year I would be eligible. ... The last three months is really when I've been prepping for this pageant: working out, working with a coach for interviews. I just couldn't take the time off over the summer to really focus on it because of my business.

What went into preparing for the competition?

I worked out with a trainer, Katie Boyd, who runs Miss Fit company in Hudson. She is the pageant guru. ... She put me on a nutrition plan and a workout plan, and I actually lost 20 pounds in the last three months. There is shopping for outfits, making sure everything looks good on you. I worked with two former Miss USAs. ... I would do Skype chats with them and I did a workshop down in Massachusetts. And then there's obviously the fundraising aspects, raising money for entrance fees, the wardrobe, working out with my trainer, working out with my coaches, hair, nails makeup lessons, everything.

What were competition days like?

We arrived Saturday morning and checked in and had an orientation. Then we went straight into rehearsals, telling us where we are supposed to be on stage, how to walk and pose. We had a little opening dance number. ... There were a lot of rehearsals. ... On Saturday we competed in a preliminary swimsuit and evening wear [competition] and had our interview with the judges. … On Sunday we had the final show.



Bridget Brunet

Do you have a message for women?

The pageant for me was all about fulfilling a lifelong dream, and everybody has different dreams. Just to go for it whatever that might be. I had a dream of opening my own company, and I had a dream of being a titleholder and a spokesperson for my own state. With any hard work a dream is possible.

At any point, did you feel you had it in the bag?

Not at all! I was honestly so shocked. ... I was so excited to even make it into the top 10. When I made it into top five I was even more shocked. When they started counting down and I was still standing there I was like, 'Oh my goodness this could really actually happen.'

How did family and friends react?

They went nuts. I had a huge cheering session. I think I had 20 or 25 people in the audience cheering me on. ... You get nervous. It's nice to have voices cheering for you.

How did you celebrate your victory?

Thinking back, my plan was, I'm going to eat cake and I'm going to eat pizza. But in reality I was so worked up I didn't eat anything at first. It took me five hours after I won to get home. I celebrated with a flatbread pizza, put on my PJs and slept in the next day.

What comes next?

Next we prep for Miss USA!

Do your wedding planning clients know you've won?

I don't know if any of them know! ... I'm hoping I don't have to disappoint any of the clients. If that is the case, I have a couple of great people who can step in and do the lead planning. As long as I have my laptop, right until I go onto the stage I can still have my wedding planner hat on.

— *Rebecca Fishow*

Five favorites

Favorite food: Mashed potatoes
Favorite movie: *Now and Then*
Favorite type of music: Right now I'd have to say it's country
Favorite book: *The Hunger Games*
Favorite thing about New Hampshire: The four seasons

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Purrrrfect

Estately, an online real estate portal, ranked New Hampshire No. 3, behind Maine and Vermont, for cat-friendliness. It crunched numbers, factoring in the average lifespans, percentage of household cats, Facebook "likes" for cats, frequency of heartworm disease, number of no-kill facilities and other factors to determine its list. New Hampshire ranked in the top 10 for nearly all the categories. Perhaps the three New England states will unite to form a cat-lover utopia.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *Cats rule, dogs drool. According to the U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics sourcebook, 34.2 percent of New Hampshire households owned a cat in 2011. That's 10th in the nation in cat ownership. New Hampshire came in among the bottom 10 states for dog ownership in the country with 30.3 percent of households owning a dog.*

Troops return

A group of 33 New Hampshire Army National Guard soldiers has returned home after a nine-month deployment in Afghanistan, the Associated Press reported. Members of the 238th Medevac Company arrived on different commercial flights from Fort Hood, Texas, throughout the day last week. The deployment was the company's third overseas assignment in the last eight years. It served in Iraq in 2005 and 2010, transporting more than 4,000 patients.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *It's the second state National Guard company to return home in the past several days. One hundred ten soldiers from the The 237th Military Police Company completed a nine-month deployment in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to the Associated Press.*

Strap on those skates

One benefit to frigid temperatures: outdoor skating. It was perfect weather for Concord's Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament last weekend, which in past years has been delayed because of too-high temperatures. Farther south, Manchester's Dorrs Pond will officially be open for skating for the first time in years, as reported in the Union Leader last week. The rink, granted, has been used already, but this year — with blowers, a pump and equipment borrowed from the JFK Coliseum to help with smoothing its surface — the pond will be maintained by the city. On weekends, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be staff on hand and a fire in the skate house, according to the article.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *To QOL's delight, Manchester city parks chief Don Pinard said in the article he has plans to bring back neighborhood skating rinks, too. His next targets are at Parkside Avenue and Sheridan-Emmett Park.*

D+ emergency care

The American College of Emergency Physicians gave New Hampshire a D+ in an overall rating in a recent study, as reported by the Eagle Tribune. The reason, according to the story, is that the state has one of the worst medical liability environments in the nation, with hospitals constantly at capacity, and, as a result, long waits for patients.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *That grade ranked New Hampshire 28th of the 50 states.*

QOL score: 56
Net change: +1
QOL this week: 57

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.



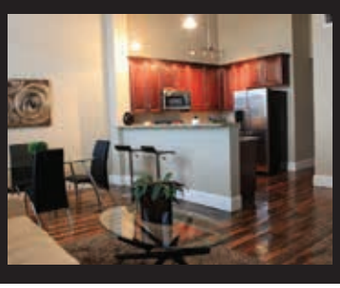
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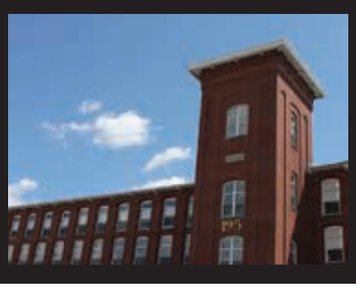
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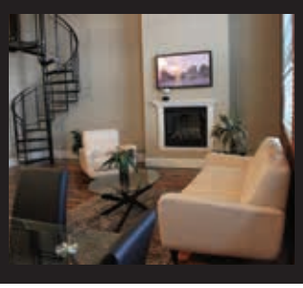
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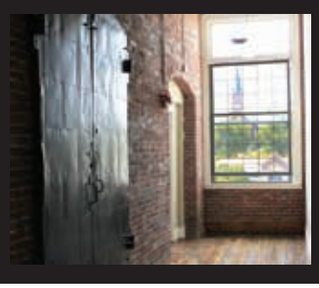
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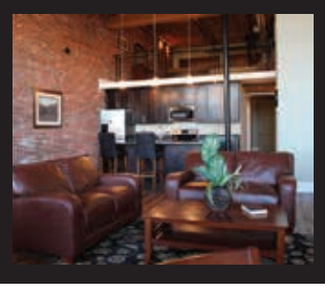












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Patriots Nation has tough choice

The Super Bowl comes our way on Sunday when Seattle and Denver face each other in what is a double whammy of bad news for Patriots Nation.

If Denver wins, **Peyton Manning** picks up Ring No. 2 and edges closer to or moves ahead of **Tom Brady** in their legacy race. Brady does have three rings, but recent postseason history is all Manning, and a win on Sunday gives him two Super Bowl titles since Brady last won one way back in 2004. There's also the **Wes Welker** payback tour, which apparently got under **Coach B**'s skin enough for him to say his taking out **Aqib Talib** early in Denver was the worst thing he's seen in 39 years. So much so that he didn't even use his name in calling him "the receiver." Given the latest development, I'm betting **Eric Mangini** gets back on the Christmas card list before Welker.

If Seattle wins, the man **Bill Belichick** replaced as HC of the NEPs will add a Super Bowl win to a resume that already has a national championship in college football. That would make his comeback complete after being unable to adequately fill the very large shoes of **Bill Parcells** in Foxboro after he split to become the HC of the NYJs. It also gives an even bigger stage to the talented and turbulent **Richard Sherman** to show off his loathsome act.

Then there is the drama of the first Super Bowl being played outside in a cold-weather city. New York City metro has a 30 percent chance of snow on Sunday. The game actually is being played in New Jersey, which brings welcome relief to under-siege Jersey **Gov. Chris Christie**, as it may get him and traffic-jamgate off the front page for a few days. Of course, if the Mayor of the Meadowlands is a Democrat who didn't support his re-election campaign, the wags at MSNBC will be all over him for a "suspicious" traffic jam in north Jersey on Sunday and since they're so blindly partisan they'll probably mean it. But that's a tedious ongoing story for another day.

Here are some other thoughts on this one and Super Bowls past:

Sports 101: The record for number of times playing on a winning Super Bowl team is five. Who holds that record?

It's been a long journey for **Pete Carroll** to get here. Before getting fired after a 6-10 season in his one year as head coach of the Jets, he was a young up and comer at 42. Then there was the aforementioned stop in Foxboro, which many thought was his last head coaching gig in the NFL. So he went to USC for eight years, won that national title and left town just ahead of the posse before massive recruiting violations were levied at USC. And four years in with Seattle he's now a wise young-looking old sage at 62 in his first Super Bowl.

I don't know about you, but I didn't grow up in Rome, so with us now up to nearly 50 games I think it's time to ditch the Roman numerals for regular numbers. Don't agree? OK, then (a) who played in SB XLII? and (b) what number game was SB XLII? You probably figured (b) was 42 and (a) was one of the games the Pats lost to the G-Men, I'm just not sure which one.

Sports 101 Answer: While a few players have played in five Super Bowls, only should-be-a-Hall of Famer **Charles Haley** has won five times — two with SF and three with Dallas.

Super Bowl 102: The record for going to the Super Bowl as a player and coach (head and assistant) is nine times. Who did it?

Gordon Gekko Award: Next time you look up the word "greedy" in the dictionary, expect to see a picture of the parking lot at Met Life Stadium in the Meadowlands, where parking for Sunday's big game will be ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY dollars per spot.

Trivia fact to dazzle them at Sunday's Super Bowl party: No team has ever come back to win a Super Bowl after trailing by more than 10 points.

Super Bowl 102 Answer: **Dan Reeves** participated in nine Super Bowls as a running back for Dallas, as a Dallas assistant coach three times and four more as a losing head coach with Denver (3) and Atlanta (1).

Super Bowl 103: Who is the only player to be named MVP from a losing team in Super Bowl history?

This probably isn't the case for most around here, but I'm OK with **Peyton Manning** winning on Sunday. He's basically football's **Derek Jeter** — a guy who's been nothing but class and excellence — so why wouldn't it be a nice story if he won?

Russell Wilson reminds me of **Fran Tarkenton**, who had a similar eyes-in-the-back-of-his-head way of sensing trouble was coming from behind and the quickness to get away from it even if it meant going 25 yards behind the line of scrimmage. But his fans are probably hoping he doesn't mimic the scrambler in the big game, as Tarkenton was winless and awful in his three SB appearances.

Super Bowl 103 Answer: The only MVP from a losing team was Dallas linebacker **Chuck Howley** in their SB V loss to Baltimore. See Glossary for details.

If elite QB play is the key to winning the Super Bowl, how did Pittsburgh beat Seattle in 2005 when **Ben Roethlisberger** had a worst-ever 22.5 QB rating? Or, and I know this is a million years ago with different rules, but how did Miami beat Minnesota in 1973 when **Bob Griese** just seven passes?

The key actually has been great defense and mistake-free play from the QB — and I'm betting it will be again on Sunday when Seattle's top-ranked defense takes out Denver's record-breaking offense.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

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Bruins alumni come to town

The Big Story: The hottest ticket for an event coming to town should be the fourth annual clash at Saint Anselm between a team of Boston Bruins alumni and the Crotched Mountain Wild on Feb. 9. **Rick Middleton** is a definite for the game and rumors are floating that the likes of **Brad Park** and **Reggie Lemelin** could be among the other alums to play once the roster is finalized. General admission tickets cost $10 and are available at www.cmf.org/tickets. Limited reserved seating is $40 per person. Game time is 2 p.m. and all proceeds will benefit Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center's Accessible Recreation and Sports (CMARS) programs. For more info contact **Jeannette Nieder** at 547-1486 or Jeannette.Nieder@crotchedmountain.org.

Sports 101: In 1989, "game-winning RBIs" was dropped just nine years after it was adopted an official major league baseball stat. So who is the "official" all-time leader? Hint: not a favorite of **Kramer** or **(hel-LO) Newman** on *Seinfeld*.

The Numbers: It was another nice weekend for the Monarchs, who picked up 5 points with wins over Portland and Worcester and by losing a Sunday shootout at Worcester. It kept the ball rolling by giving them a conference-leading 63 points and stretched their lead in the Atlantic Division to 12 over St. Johns.

Knick of Tyme Award: To **Angie Marazzi**, whose bucket from international waters with five ticks left gave her 29 points for the game and provided the margin of victory as Memorial moved to 6-1 with a 39-36 win over Bishop Guertin on Friday. Runner-up is **Wenyen Gabriel**, who scored his only two points of the game with 25 seconds left to let Trinity eke out a 48-46 win over Spaulding.

Crazy Stat of the Year: I got this on ESPN's Sports Center: Ohio State, Oregon, Wisconsin and Iowa State started the college basketball season by winning their first 58 games combined. Then in their next 14 games they were winless. Probably doesn't say too much about the degree of difficulty of their non-conference schedules.

Sports 101 Answer: The official leader of game-winning RBIs is 1979 NL-MVP **Keith Hernandez**.

The Numbers

2 – goals scored by **Jason Parker** and **Curtis Harper** in leading the Londonderry pucksters to a 7-1 win over Central on Saturday.

6 – consecutive wins to start the season for the Bedford girls, who stayed undefeated thanks to a 62-30 win over Trinity when **Rachel Collins** had a game-high 17 while teammate **Nicky Tucci** had 10, as did **Shannon Roberge**, who was the Pioneers' top scorer.

20 – game-high points scored by **Carmen Giampetruzzi** to lead Trinity to a 66-45 decision over Bedford at the start of the week while ***Cam Meservey*** was high for the Bulldogs with 15.

48 – margin of victory in points for Londonderry as the Lancers moved to 7-0 with a 82-34 win over Central when **Casey Evans** had a game-high 16 points while **Aliza Simpson** and **Jordan Marett** each chipped in with 13 apiece.

50 – combined points from the dynamic Memorial scoring duo of **Kabongo Ngalakulondi** (27) and **Treyvon Maughn** (23) in a close but no cigar 74-72 loss at the buzzer to now 7-1 Bishop Guertin as **Joe Marandola** poured in 30 for the winners.

59 – points scored by the Central trio of **Brett Hanson** (26), **Jon Martin** (20) and **Joey Martin** (13) as the undefeated Little Green moved to 7-0 with a 68-49 win over Londonderry on Friday night.

1,000 – career point marks reached last week by Merrimack senior **Eric Gendron** in a 65-59 win over Nashua South and Gate City alum **Kelsey Hogan** when she became the 17th member of the UNH women's basketball program to do so.

Sports Glossary

Oct. 25, 1986: A date that will live in infamy for both Red Sox Nation and **Bill Buckner** and brings to mind **Vince Scully** saying, "There's a little roller up along first … it gets through Buckner…. Here comes (Ray) **Knight** and the Mets WIN IT!" Then THUD, which was the sound of various objects being thrown at TV screens around New England.

Dan Reeves, the player: A college QB at South Carolina who moved to be a versatile running back with the Cowboys in the '60s and '70s as Dallas was becoming DALLAS under **Tom Landry**. The overall numbers don't look like much — 1,190 career rushing yards and 1,162 receiving yards, but he was clutch, as his 42 career TDs attest. His specialty was the halfback option pass with the signature one being the 53-yard TD pass he connected on to **Lance (no pants) Rentzel** on Green Bay's frozen tundra for the Cowboys' only offensive TD in the famous Ice Bowl loss in the NFC title game in '67.

Chuck Howley: Great LB in the early days of the Cowboys franchise who was a six-time Pro Bowler and All-Pro five times. His 13 years with the Cowboys is tied for most in franchise history when he was one of the best cover LBs of his era with 25 interceptions and 18 fumble recoveries. Was MVP when the boys lost to the Colts 13-10 in a horribly boring SB affair won by a last-second field goal by rookie kicker/receiver **Jim O'Brien** on my birthday, no less, in January 1971.

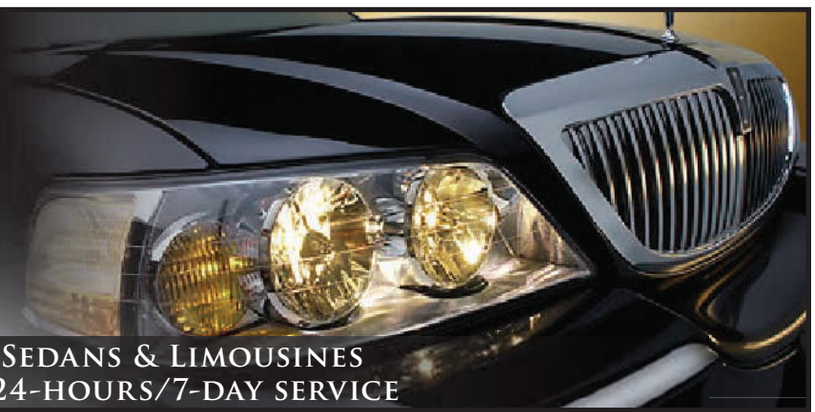
Gordon Gekko: "Greed is Good"-spouting character in **Oliver Stone's** dark 1988 drama *Wall Street* and signature role for **Michael Douglas** — though he did just nail Liberace in the HBO film last fall. Reappeared in the sequel *Money Never Sleeps*, which was unrealistic and didn't quite live up to the original.

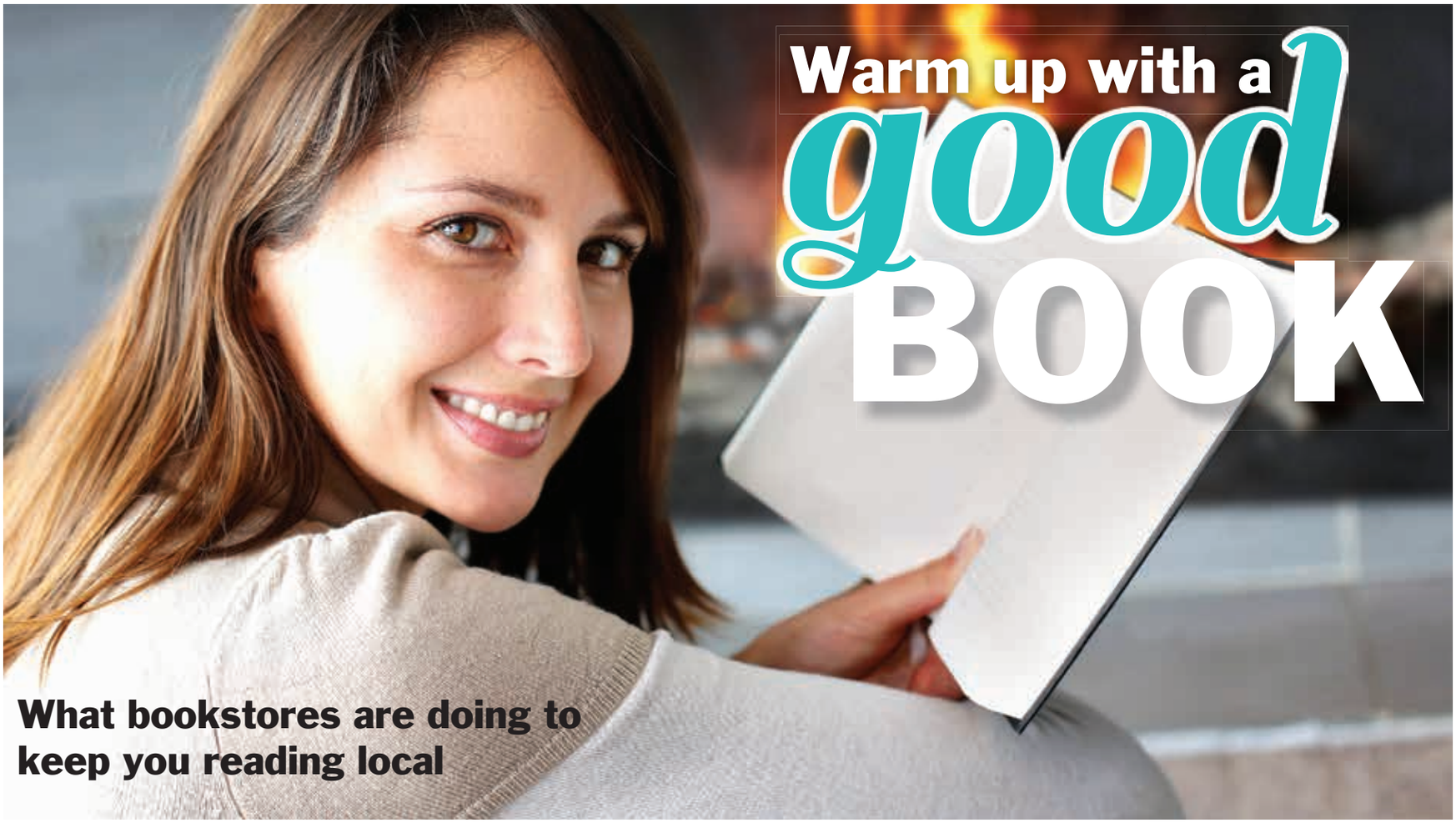
Chris Christie: Not too long ago the hope of the GOP's presidential plans, and his recent traffic jamgate trouble will soon test the theory that time heals all wounds. Although the likes of **Gary Hart**, **John Edwards** or **Newt Gingrich** can tell you it didn't do much for their presidential aspirations.

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Warm up with a good BOOK

What bookstores are doing to keep you reading local

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Contrary to popular belief, America's bookstores are not dying off.

Or at least, not all of them. Not the ones in New Hampshire run by the determined, business-savvy and creative entrepreneurs.

The proof? It's in the upturn. It was apparent when Gibson's Bookstore moved to a larger location in downtown Concord last summer, a space nearly triple the size of the original, and it was apparent when, the summer before, MainStreet BookEnds, in partnership with MainStreet Warner, Inc., opened a marketplace, art gallery and park amphitheater on the business's grounds.

Farther east, Portsmouth's RiverRun Bookstore opened a second location in Kittery, Maine, and started its own independent publishing company. Farther north, Chris and Anna Miner felt the business was strong enough to take the plunge and purchase New London's Morgan Hill Bookstore last July.

Why have these businesses found success in what's been an uncertain time for many booksellers? Some will say it's about creating a community center, a place where people can go to talk with other book lovers or just meet for coffee; others will say it's because of the serendipity that comes with shopping in a bookstore. Throwing locally made coffee, toys, games and chocolate into the mix doesn't hurt, either.

But the story about New Hampshire's modern bookselling culture isn't really in the *why* it's working. The far more intriguing story is in the *how* — in the innovation, the partnerships, the product knowledge (one local bookseller boasts reading 250 titles a year) and, most importantly, in the passion required to thrive against the world's book giants.

Darwin's theory

Yes, there have been many bookstores, very recently and over the past 15 years, that have gone out of business. Borders, which operated 511 U.S. superstores in 2010, filed for bankruptcy in 2011. Its rival, Barnes & Noble, bought Borders' brand name, website and customer loyalty list.

In 2012, the Hippo covered the closure of Annie's Book Stop in Manchester, a tiny used bookshop on Mammoth Road run by a woman named Nancy Mitchell, who blamed the downfall of the store on the electronic age.

A year before Annie's departure, Lee's Spot, another used bookstore, tucked in a nook next to the CVS on Elm Street, closed its doors as well.

It's a story that's been told many times over the past 20 years.

And so, in this wake of this bookselling calamity, many of the area's bookstores tried new fight plans. Those who didn't act quickly enough or didn't have the correct resources didn't make it.

Some booksellers, like Michael Herrmann of Gibson's Bookstore, say it's just business.

"I don't think it's a question of survival," Herrmann said in a phone interview. "The trick is to do an excellent job. … The question should be, how do you make a really good bookstore that people want to come back to?"

He thinks there's been an oversimplification in the media.

"In retail, the media gets a certain narrative that tries to explain everything that's happening. But the real truth is that retail businesses come and go all of the time. It doesn't mean the industry is in danger," Herrmann said. "It just means that one didn't work out."

Concord got a taste of this when, last August, Gibson's expanded — big time.

What you'll find at 45 S. Main St. are aisles and aisles of books sectioned off in neat rows and categorized by author, subject and genre. The walls are all different colors, save one in the children's area, which displays a bright mural by Maine artist Susan York. Hovering over the games, picture books and toys by Imagination Village are moon-jumping cows, a flying robotic cat and a painting of downtown Concord as seen from a distance.

The front of the store smells like coffee and bacon sandwiches. Thanks to the new cafe — run by True Brew Barista and also featuring items by Franz at Bread and Chocolate — the bookstore sees visitors like 15-year-old Delaney Collins, a Concord High School sophomore who recently sat sipping a coffee and studying for midterms. There wasn't really room to do this at the old location, she said.

"When we expanded the one that we did, we illuminated that they're [bookstores] actually not dying. People love to go to bookstores," Herrmann said. "You wouldn't believe how crowded we and every other bookstore in the area were in the weeks before Christmas."

Challenges, shifting landscapes

Dan Chartrand, owner of Water Street Bookstore in Exeter, agrees that there is, indeed, an upturn in bookselling.

"There are more stores opening. As we move toward the back end of the downtown, or rather, the beginning of the upturn, there's more financing for start-up stores," Chartrand said.

Lots of those potential entrepreneurs, he said, come from alternative backgrounds but are looking to go into independent bookselling because they want their work to be involved in the community.

Though Chartrand is not one of those people, he'd know; as many of the state's bookstore owners are, he's a member of the New England Independent Booksellers Association (newenglandbooks.org), of which the store's events coordinator, Stef Kiper Schmidt, currently works on the advisory council. Chartrand also served on the board of the American Booksellers Association (bookweb.org) for three years.

He offered a brief overview about what the

Hot new and upcoming releases

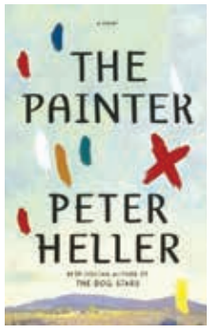
Here are some recommendations sent in by New Hampshire indie bookstore staff.

On shelves now

• ***Purity of Vengence*** **by Jussi Alder-Olsen** — *Toadstool Bookshop, Milford staff*

• ***Snow Blind*** **by Christopher Golden** — *Tom Holbrook, RiverRun Boosktore*

• ***A Highly Unlikely Scenario, or a Neetsa Pizza Employee's Guide to Saving the World*** **by Rachel Cantor** "Fans of Douglas Adams, this is for you." — *Liberty Hardy, RiverRun Bookstore*



• ***This Dark Road to Mercy*** **by Wiley Cash** "It's like *No Country for Old Men* as written by Elmore Leonard." — *Liberty Hardy*

• ***On Such a Full Sea*** **by Chang-Rae Lee** — *Tracy Hahn-Burkett*

• ***Radiance of Tomorrow*** **by Ishmael Beah** — *Michael Herrmann, Gibson's Bookstore, and Toadstool Bookshop staff*

• ***The Invention of Wings*** **by Sue Monk Kidd** — *Gibson's staff*

• ***The Guts*** **by Roddy Doyle** — *Sandy Eaton, Gibson's Bookstore*

• ***Independent Study*** **by Joelle Charbonneau** — *Ryan Foley, Gibson's Bookstore*

• ***Unhinged*** **by A. G. Howard** — *Ryan Foley*

• ***Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain*** **by Daniel J. Siegel** — *Gibson's staff*

• ***Danubia: A Personal History of Habsburg Europe*** **by Simon Winder** — *John LeDonne, Gibson's Bookstore*

• ***The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies*** **by Erik Brynjolfsson & Andrew McAfee** — *Gibson's staff*

• ***Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War*** **by Robert M. Gates** — *Toadstool staff*

• ***A Religion of One's Own*** **by Thomas Moore** — *Toadstool staff*

• ***Andrew's Brain*** **by E.L. Doctorow** "Anything new by him is always exciting." — *Katharine Nevins, MainStreet BookEnds, Warner*

• ***Loudest Voice in the Room*** **by Gabriel Sherman** "Important revelations into the workings of Fox News." — *Katharine Nevins*

• ***Snowflakes Fall*** **by Patricia Maclachlen and Steven Kellogg** "One of the best children's writers teams up with one of the best children's illustrators to create a classic. All proceeds go to Sandy Hook." — *Katharine Nevins*

• ***North of Boston*** **by Elizabeth Elo** "It's a debut title from the author and anyone connected to Boston will appreciate it." — *Anna Miner, Morgan Hill Bookstore*

Coming soon

• ***I Always Loved You*** **by Robin Oliveira** (Feb. 4) — *Anna Miner*

• ***Dancing with Fish and Ammonites*** **by Penelope Lively** (Feb. 6) — *Anna Miner*

• ***The Martian*** **by Andrew Weir** (Feb. 11) "It's really a clever and often quite funny read." — *Liberty Hardy*

• ***My Wish List*** **by Grégoire Delacourt** (March) "One of the best contemporary fiction books I've read. I absolutely adored the story." — *Regina Barnes, Toadstool Bookshop, Milford*

• ***Boy, Snow, Bird*** **by Helen Oyeyemi** (March 6) — *Liberty Hardy*

• ***The Empathy Exams*** **by Leslie Jamison** (April 1) — *Liberty Hardy*

• ***The Painter*** **by Peter Heller** (May 6) — *Anna Miner*

• ***Smoke at Dawn*** **by Jeff Shaara** (May 13) "Shaara has an incredible following and his historical fiction Civil War novels truly move the reader." — *Anna Miner*

state's booksellers have been going through the past 20 years in a 30-minute interview at the back of the store, which, on that particular Friday, was a feat.

To say it was a busy day would be an understatement, as the quaint, two-room bookshop, connected by a brick archway, was undergoing major structural changes that week. Schmidt was working the front of the store during the interview, greeting customers — by first name, no less — in the final hours before her three-month maternity leave. She'd spent the past several weeks arduously delegating her work to co-workers. The rest of the staff members, while readying themselves for Schmidt's absence, were packing, taping and shipping back books that didn't sell at Christmastime and scrambling to quickly learn the store's brand-new inventory system, which had been installed the week prior.

Since Chartrand started the store, he said, bookselling has been changing. In the early and mid-'90s, it was all about the superstores.

"They wiped out a huge swath of independent bookstores that had been in existence for a while," Chartrand said. "Then came the rise of Amazon in the late '90s and early 2000s, which wiped out more stores and one of the two big chain superstores."

This, in turn, changed the publishing industry forever.

"When I started in the book business in the '80s, you could sell 5,000 copies of a book and call that a success. At the point of when the chain superstores came along, there was no room for that in the model. … Books had to sell 20, 30 thousand copies, which meant that those books that used to be published by trade publishers had to go to independent publishers and university presses."

For about a decade, these superstores meant a huge overprinting of books, Chartrand said, because acres and acres of floor space had to be filled. So publishers would take back these books and re-sell them for pennies on the dollar.

"Frankly, now they sell things cheaper than I can get them from the publisher," said Tom Holbrook, owner of RiverRun Bookstore. "Never mind the fact that in 2007, ebooks came onto the scene and in 2008, the economy collapsed."

Ebooks and tablets are the new challenges facing bookselling. Add that to the fact that two of these tablets — the Amazon Kin-

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The inside of RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth. Photo courtesy of RiverRun Bookstore.

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dle and the Barnes & Noble Nook — are run by the big companies that put so many bookstores out of business before digital reading was even a thing, and you've got some major competition.

"You can feel the landscape shifting, and we need to shift accordingly," said Katharine Nevins of MainStreet BookEnds in Warner.

Community reflection

One way to stay relevant, Nevins said, is to become a community center, a place that locals rely on. A successful bookstore, she said, is really one that reflects the community of where it exists.

"It's what makes them exciting, diverse. Independent bookstores have the ability to capture a community better than a lot of other kinds of stores," she said.

MainStreet Warner is perhaps one of the best examples of this. The quaint shop on Main Street is the cultural epicenter of the town, in part because of its founders' efforts.

Nevins and her brother, Jim Mitchell, an anchor for WBZ news radio who was heavily involved with the town, opened the bookstore in the wake of Amazon's surge, a risky time for any bookstore.

But MainStreet BookEnds was never going to be just a bookstore. Mitchell dreamed that the business would become a cultural center in Warner, and when he died five years ago, the community rallied together to make this dream happen. They created MainStreet Warner, Inc., a nonprofit aimed at furthering arts and education in Warner and creating the Jim Mitchell Community Park, which now houses a patio, a solar-powered amphitheater with a rainwater irrigation system, a garden, a marketplace and an art gallery on the bookstore's grounds.

Though not every New Hampshire bookstore is partnered with a corresponding nonprofit, it's not uncommon that these business owners become community leaders. Chartrand was recently elected on the Exeter's Board of Selectmen. He joked — after admitting that this sounded extremely corny — that working as a bookstore owner in Exeter feels like how he imagines George Bailey felt at the end of *It's A Wonderful Life.*

"We're a fiercely independent bunch. We really take a lot of pride in running our businesses and helping the communities where we live. We give back to our community, and our community, in turn, supports us, keeps us here and really makes us what we are," Nevins said.

If you stopped by MainStreet BookStore this summer, you probably saw this happening. The 13th-century-style post-and-beam barn stage was built and completed in October by local volunteers. (Nevins said in a past interview that the community raised about $200,000 for this project, man hours included, and nearly twice that much in in-kind donations.) While the stage itself is finished, there's still work to be done and money to be raised for park lighting and a sound system.

With all of this in place, the bookstore has become a prime place for community members to gather.

Some booksellers will argue that this alone won't work — that you still need *some* sort of revenue — but Nevins feels that, in Warner anyway, the more people there are coming in and out of the store, the more likely these people are to support the business and help it succeed.

This is what happened in Portsmouth three years ago when RiverRun Bookstore nearly closed. The shop had a much larger floor space than it does now, and thus, a much higher rent. Business was simply becoming too expensive.

But the community rallied behind RiverRun. Shortly after the announcement appeared in many area newspapers that unless the bookstore received help from some serious investors, the business would close, 150 people turned out for a community meeting to help save it, and shortly after, 15 investors took partial ownership. The business moved to 142 Fleet St., a smaller but now healthier place for RiverRun.

"We were thrilled when people stepped forward, because we would not have continued without the community's broad-based support," owner Tom Holbrook said. "We did a lot of things for the community over the

decade, and you don't know if people appreciate that or not until something like that happens."

Bookstore owners believe in these businesses because people — and not just avid readers — like bookstores. Done right, they become what booksellers like Herrmann and Nevins call the "third place."

"It's not where you live, it's not where you work, but it's the place where you can go, relax and engage with people, face-to-face. As people become more drawn to texting, emailing, there's less face-to-face contact, and so many of these places that provide that kind of exchange are thriving. That's the good news," Nevins said.

Though to be totally honest, she said, she doesn't see the hardcover book going out of style anytime soon.

"There is a place for the digital book," Nevins said. "But there will always be a need to put a child on your lap, read to them, and to have that book that provides a solace or comfort."

The gamble

"Why open a bookstore? Have you ever been *in* a bookstore?"

Holbrook was jokingly aghast at the question. But he obviously knows the riskiness of opening a bookstore, especially now.

"I look back with such nostalgia. People said, 'You're so brave! So brave to open a bookstore,'" Holbrook said. "I was only 30. I didn't have children, I didn't own a house. It was a much easier gamble. If things went wrong, they went wrong. It's a lot harder now. There's a lot more responsibility."

RiverRun — now in its third location — has certainly seen ups and downs, but Holbrook says he can't imagine doing anything else.

Farther north, Chris and Anna Miner took the plunge last July and purchased New London's Morgan Hill Bookstore, which for many years was owned by Connie Appel and Peggy Holliday.

"We were vacationers who fell in love with the region," Anna Miner said in a phone interview. She, Chris and their 7- and 8-year-old daughters lived in Braintree, Mass., before they purchased the bookstore from Appel and Holliday. "It was a regular pit stop for us."

Indie bookstores

- **Gibson's Bookstore**, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **Toadstool Bookshop**, Lorden Plaza, 614 Nashua St., Milford, 673-1734; 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, 924-3543; 222 West St., Keene, 352-8815, toadstool.indiebound.com
- **Water Street Bookstore**, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com
- **MainStreet BookEnds**, 16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
- **RiverRun Bookstore**, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com
- **Morgan Hill Bookstore**, 253 Main St., New London, 526-5850, morganhillbookstore.com

As fate would have it, the family was on vacation when Appel and Holliday decided to sell Morgan Hill in July 2012.

"We were here in July one day last year, fantasizing about how great it would be to live up here and run this bookstore," Miner said. "We love the sense of community here, the small-town feel. … And my children love being in the outdoors."

An hour later, they saw the ad in the newspaper.

"It was meant to be," Miner said.

Appel and Holliday started the store in 1995, and when they decided to retire in 2012, it was important to them, Miner said, that it remain a bookstore. The idea that a family would continue the legacy was appealing.

Miner thinks a large portion of Morgan Hill Bookstore's success is due to the community that surrounds it. She and Chris spent the past year training under Appel and Holliday, who passed on a few tips — read the backs of books, remember authors, talk with members of the store's book clubs in order to get a feel for the literature people in the area like — but their clients don't need to be lectured on why it's important to shop local.

"There are lots of people in this community who are well-read. … Amazon is important to compete with, but around here, the mantra is shop local," Miner said.

Getting people in the door

"You certainly can't just open doors anymore and hope that people will buy your books. Not that independent bookstores ever did that — but it used to be a lot easier," Holbrook said.

Today, he said, the biggest struggle is competing for people's attention.

What's involved in this competition: being active on Twitter and Facebook accounts (he boasts 7,500 followers) and creating events that bring people into the store and put the business in the media listings.

Lots of the successful independent bookstores in New Hampshire do this. Some of these events feature lesser-known, local authors — the state does have a fairly large number considering its size, said Herrmann — but lots of events feature big-names too. Dan Brown, for instance, made at least one appearance at Water Street Bookstore last year to promote *Inferno,* and prior to that, he participated in a large-scale event through Gibson's at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding also made the rounds last year, and Joyce Maynard, a New Hampshire native whose book-turned-movie *Labor Day* was just released, made a trip to the Peterborough Toadstool last August to promote *After Her*.

Also key for any bookstore, or really for any business, is location. After that, it's all about how you use it — whether you join downtown small business committees, like Chartrand has done in Exeter, or whether you

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partner with area business, as Herrmann has done with Red River Theatres and the Capitol Center for the Arts.

Location is part of the reason why, in November, RiverRun opened a second store in Kittery. It's small — maybe about the size of your kitchen, Holbrook said, but it's next to a new cafe and, unlike the Portsmouth place, is in a spot with plentiful parking.

Innovative business

"Trying to get your voice out there with all of the white noise can be one of the hardest things," Holbrook said.

And so, he thinks that it's important for independent bookstores to find another, additional revenue model that works for them. For RiverRun, which is at the center of fantastic shops and cafes in downtown Portsmouth, it's an independent publishing company.

"Lots of bookstores do very well selling things that aren't books. I'm not very good at that. I'm also surrounded by gift shops," Holbrook said. "But the publishing company is something that fits so well with the Seacoast."

One reason is that the area is teeming with writers. RiverRun Bookstore started Piscataqua Press about a year and a half ago and already has helped publish 30 books.

"Two or three times a week, someone local would come in and ask us to carry their book. Oftentimes, they were self-published books and very poorly done — never mind the writing, they were poorly packaged," Holbrook said. "It would turn out that the author had paid to have it done by an online company, never having talked with anyone face to face. That's when we realized there's a niche out there," he said.

Piscataqua Press books are printed through Ingram (ingramcontent.com), one of the largest book/magazine distributors in the country, Holbrook said. The company utilizes lightningsource.com, too, which Holbrook said is nice because authors don't need to buy 500 or more copies up front.

Though the company has published work by already-acclaimed writers — in November it printed *Teach Us That Peace*, a novel by Baron Wormser, who served as the Poet Laureate of Maine for six years — the company's clientele also includes first-time, less experienced writers, too.

"We're positioning the company as a service for the author rather than a service for the world of literature. If someone's book is free of typos, even if it's not exciting, we'll still publish it because it will be important to them."

The business also offers a personalized book recommendations service, led by events coordinator Liberty Hardy — who devours about 250 titles a year.

MainStreet BookEnds is also on the map for its innovative business strategy, but more for its money-saving techniques. It's the second bookstore in the country, the first east of the Rockies, to go completely solar, which helps the business enormously. The pole-mounted 11.52-kilowatt system at the head of the park was funded through a mixture of state and federal incentives. These solar panels have been the reason for many of the park's visitors, including local school classes and students from Colby-Sawyer College who were looking to learn more about how a business can utilize solar energy.



The entrance of Water Street Bookstore in Exeter. Photo courtesy of Water Street Bookstore.

"It knocks off the electric bill every month, which is huge for a business," Nevins said. "We like to be an example for education, but it's also good for a business sense."

What about used bookstores?

Some of the most beloved bookstores are the used shops. They have that nostalgic, musty smell that some readers find weirdly appealing. But it seems there are even more things for them to overcome because their biggest selling point is also one of Amazon's biggest selling points: cheap books.

"How are we transitioning into the 21st century? There are a few things that are facing us," said Ian Morrison, owner of Northwood Old Books and Old Number Six Book Depot in Henniker. (The Henniker location is the biggest used bookstore in the state, with 165,000 volumes, Morrison said.)

"First, there's the Internet. It means people can shop around and get what they want and not have to get out of their car. … The other is the ebook. Obviously, that has a lot of appeal for people who want to get something on the cheap, read it and be done with it," Morrison said.

(On this note, he said with a chuckle, he also noticed a decline on sales of books with racy covers because you can take an ebook on the beach and nobody will know what you're reading. Hence the *50 Shades of Gray* ebook sales phenomenon.)

He and his wife, Helen, opened their Henniker location in 1975, which, at the time of its opening, was attached to the home they lived in. (Ian worked at New England College until about 30 years ago.) They bought the Northwood spot in 1991.

There are no gimmicks to the Morrisons'

business, though he thinks it helps that they keep their inventory well-organized and categorized. (Their Yelp page also has 4.5 out of 5 stars with a lot of high praise from book lovers.)

But these changes in modern bookselling have been undoubtedly tough for used booksellers, Morrison said. When they started selling in the '70s, he remembers there being 70-something antiquarian booksellers in the state. Today, he said, there are 38 members in the New Hampshire Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

"It's a tough adjustment," Morrison said. "There are a lot fewer used bookstores around than there were 30 years ago. My wife and I are both in our 70s. We're more concerned about how to make this last a little longer, something we both like doing, without going completely crazy or bankrupt."

Willard Williams, owner of the Toadstool Bookshop, which has stores in Peterborough, Milford and Keene, says that in selling used books, it helps if you have new stuff, too.

Williams opened the Toadstool in Peterborough in 1972 at age 19 with a $25,000 family investment and an 800-square-foot store, according to an article on the American Booksellers Association website. It started as and still is a family-run business, he thinks the oldest in the state. He opened the location in Keene in 1983, Milford in 1989.

The Peterborough location has garnered a lofty collection of used titles.

"This section brings in another group of people who are looking for books at lower prices," Williams said.

Often, this group will find something new they wanted to buy, too, or vice versa.

"The used bookstore is probably a hard business right now to be in, but we have enough people coming in to support both sections. It's hard to make it just selling dollar books anymore," Williams said.

Serendipity

"We all wish we knew for sure what it takes to be successful today," Williams said. "It's hard to predict. In the past, we've always worked under the assumption that you should treat people well and give them a good selection of books. Customer service is primary."

He echoed what many of the other shop owners said: Hold events. Stay current on what's going on in the bookselling world. Listen to the community to figure out what to sell. Read book reviews. Hire intelligent staff members who know books.

And then there's one thing that all bookstores offer, even used ones, that the Internet never will. Nearly all of the booksellers interviewed used the word "serendipity" or "discoverability" in their interviews.

"It's hard to be surprised while shopping for books online. And I think a lot of people want to be surprised, they want to be delighted. They want to find the book they didn't know about," Chartrand said.

In an independent bookstore, he said, you're more likely to find that.

"We tend to curate our selection very carefully in an independent bookstore. More so than in a superstore because they need to fill up the space. They have a lot of everything, and it's hard to tell, in a chain superstore, what they think is really good," Chartrand said.

Being a bookseller is certainly more work than it's ever been. But most New Hampshire sellers don't mind enough to change careers. They still love what they do.

"I like being surrounded by books. I like the people who are reading them. I like the excitement of new books coming in all the time. And I like the challenge of it all," Williams said. "It's about the tenacity and conviction of knowing that what we're doing is right, and what we're doing, we're doing well."

Used bookstores

- **Ted Cole Books**, 588-3145, 7 West St., Antrim, tcdouglas@tds.net
- **The Book Preserve**, 588-4020, 33 N. Main St., Antrim, mnatural60@hotmail.com
- **Bert Babcock, Bookseller LLC**, 432-9142, 9 East Derry Road, Derry, babcockbooks.com
- **Archway Books**, 749-2190, 233 Washington St., Dover, archwaybooks.com, mail@archwaybooks.com
- **Rare Books and Maps** (formerly Portsmouth Bookshop), 343-5298, 567 Central Ave., Dover, raremapsandbooks.com, mapsbooks@comcast.net
- **The Colophon Bookshop**, 772-8443, 101B Water St., Exeter, colophonbooks.com
- **A Thousand Words**, 778-1991, 65 Water St., Exeter, NH, apwatw@hotmail.com
- **Sacred and Profane**, 497-9921, 486-7386, Rte. 13, New Boston Road, Goffstown
- **Henniker Book Farm**, 428-8888, 34 Old West Hopkinton Road, Henniker, hennikerbookfarm.com, mail@hennikerbookfarm.com
- **Old Number Six Book Depot**, 428-3334, 166 Depot Hill Road, Henniker, helen.morrison@comcast.net
- **Talking Leaves**, 666-3083, 58 Joanne Dr., Hooksett
- **The Portable Bookstore**, 228-8000, 902 Upper Straw Rd., Hopkinton
- **Annie's Book Stop**, Nashua (882-9178, 650 Amherst St., Nashua, anniesbooks.com), Concord (132 Loudon Road, Concord, 224-8050)
- **Crackskull's Coffee and Books**, 659-8181, 86 Main St., Newmarket, crackskulls.com
- **Drake Farm Books**, 964-4868, 148 LaFatette Road, Route 1, North Hampton, drakefarmbooks.com
- **Northwood Old Books**, 942-8107, 1563 First New Hampshire Turnpike, US Route 4, between Northwood and Epsom, helen.morrison@comcast.net
- **Toadstool Bookshop**, 924-3543, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, oldbooks@ptoad.com
- **Sheafe Street Books**, 498-4696, 29 Sheafe St., Portsmouth, kkozick@gmail.com
- **Used Book Superstore**, 952-4861, 419 S. Broadway, Salem, usedbooksuperstore.com
- **Boomer's Books & Molly Stark Bindery**, 529-5644, 273 No. Stark Hwy, Weare, boomersbooks.net, boomers@gsinet.net

Meet the Author: Liz O'Donnell



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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2014, AND BEYOND



Thursday, Jan. 30

Spend an evening with a star of early Hollywood. Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org) will screen *Their First Misunderstanding*, a 1911 short starring Mary Pickford, and *Sparrow*, a Pickford film from 1926, tonight at 7 p.m.. Jeff Rapsis (Hippo associate publisher) will provide live musical accompaniment to both these silent films. *Their First Misunderstanding* was unearthed in a barn in Nelson, N.H., in 2007, according to a press release. Pickford expert and editor of *Mary Pickford: Queen of the Movies* Christel Schmidt will host the event and sign copies of her book. Tickets cost $15.



Saturday, Feb. 1

Environmentally friendly and fashion forward — that's the goal of the Alternative Fashion show today from 4 to 8 p.m. at Southern New Hampshire University (2500 N. River Road in Manchester). The event will include a fashion show as well as vendors and speakers. Tickets cost $20. See alyssaleecouture.com or see the story on page 50 in last week's Hippo (go to hippopress.com and click on the current issue of the Hippo, then click on the calendar icon on the bottom left).



Sunday, Feb. 2

The commercials! The junk food! A football game, apparently! Tune in to FOX today (broadcast starts at 6 p.m., game starts around 6:30 p.m.) for Super Bowl XLVIII, when the Denver Broncos take on the Seattle Seahawks at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. No matter what happens with the game, the true winners of the night will be *New Girl* and recent Golden Globe winner *Brooklyn Nine-Nine,* which will run in the coveted post-game spot.



Tuesday, Feb. 4

See the Rudolf Nureyev State Ballet Theatre perform the Tchaikovsky classic *Sleeping Beauty* tonight at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St. in Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com). Tickets cost $28 to $58.



Wednesday, Feb. 5

Celebrate the cold at the Stoli Elit Ice Bar at the Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way in Bedford, bedfordvillageinn.com, 472-2001) starting tonight and running through Saturday, Feb. 8, from 5 to 10 p.m. Admission to the ice bar (which will feature live music every night) costs $10 per person. Tokens will be sold for $3 each (two tokens get you a beer or hot food, three tokens get you hot drinks or mixed drinks, four tokens get you wine or a martini).

Eat: Chocolate

Local chocolatiers, bakers and vineyards will offer up a chocolate tasting on Monday, Feb. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Room at The Old Salt (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 926-8322, oldsaltnh.com). Tickets cost $15; a full cash bar will also be available.

Drink: Wine

At press time, tickets were still available to the Winter Wine Spectacular, a benefit for Easter Seals of NH, on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets cost $65 and get you in to a tasting room with more than 1,500 wines to try. See nh.easterseals.com. For more on Wine Week and all its events, see hippopress.com and click on the current issue of the Hippo, then click on the calendar icon on the bottom left and look for the Jan. 16 issue.

Be Merry: With books

Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway in Derry, derrypl.org, 432-6140) will host a "midwinter authors afternoon" on Saturday, Feb. 1, starting at 1:30 p.m. Meet Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Terry Farish, Brendan Halpin, N. Griffin and Erin Bowman and enjoy author readings, Q/A, book sale and signing. An open mike featuring two-minute readings will follow. An on-site book sale will be hosted by Water Street Books.

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ART

Some 'Eastern Influence'

Artist strays from comfort zone for brush paintings

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



"Nighttime Pine" by Sally Gordon Shea.

Chinese brush painting allows no room for mistakes.

It's something Bedford artist Sally Gordon Shea learned very quickly when she switched to the medium, the results of which will hang in her next show at East Colony Fine Art, "Eastern Influences." It's on view now through Feb. 22 — just in time for the Chinese New Year, which is Friday, Jan. 31.

The images she's showing are quite different from what you might have previously seen from her at East Colony. She's replaced her usual bright, popping florals and landscape paintings with nine very simple pieces, all of which were made with the Chinese brush painting method.

Shea, who studied art at the University of New Hampshire and who has a strong handle on the pastel medium, found transferring to Chinese brush painting difficult. It's very different from what she was used to.

"It's quite a challenge," she said. "You can't go back and fix things. One stroke, and it stays there. You go through a lot of paper."

There's less busy work, too. Each painting requires the utmost focus, which can be intriguing if you've never done it before.

"With pastels, you have literally hundreds of pastel sticks with magnificent colors. You work with your hands — there's no brush, nothing between you and the color," she said. "But here, you have to know exactly what you're going to do. … Also, in Chinese brush painting, you don't fill the whole space. There's a lot of negative space, but the negative means something," Shea said.

Included in the collection are the Four Gentlemen in Chinese art, which refers to four plants that depict the unfolding seasons through the year — orchid (which represents spring), bamboo (summer), chrysanthemum (autumn) and the plum blossom (winter).

Shea learned the medium last summer from Bruce Iverson in Portsmouth. One of the reasons she wanted to dabble with Chinese brush painting, she said, is because when she was young, her family lived in Guam; her father, who was in the military, was stationed in China. She was 5 at the time and doesn't remember much, she said, but she grew up with traditional Chinese art and items in her home and has always had a solid appreciation for them.

She also loves the meditative element in the art.

"I wanted to explore another area of art that was totally different," she said. "I wanted to work on a different side in my head. It's not just about applying ink to paper. You sort of have to achieve a certain chi inside your body and have it flow out to your arm, to your hand. Even grinding the ink is a meditative process."

The opening, she said, coincidentally fit in with the Chinese New Year (it's the Year of the Horse), and so at the opening reception, on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., visitors will be able to enjoy themed treats like fortune cookies and Chinese tea.

You don't see much Eastern-style art in New Hampshire, Shea said, and so she hopes the show will help viewers develop a new appreciation for this different style.



A postcard painting of bamboo by Sally Gordon Shea.

See "Eastern Influences"

Where: East Colony Fine Art, Langer Place, 55 S. Commercial St., Manchester
When: On view Jan. 28 through Feb. 22. There's a reception on Sat., Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact: eastcolony.com, 621-7400

22 Art
Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

23 Theater
Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

26 Classical
Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

Art

• **ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT EXPO: HOOKSETT LIBRARY** on Thurs., Jan. 30, 6-8:30 p.m., at library, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092. Thirty-five vendors, free product samples, door prizes, etc.

• **YEAR OF THE HORSE** event celebrating Chinese New Year at White Heron Tea, 601 Islington St., Portsmouth, on Fri., Jan. 31, 4-8 p.m. Lanterns, dragons, food, fine arts and crafts, with visiting Asian brush painter, Bruce Iverson. Free event. Call 433-8484 or email iversonarts@gmail.com for details.

• **POTTER'S BOWL FUNDRAISER** organized by the Community Caregivers on Fri., Jan. 31, 5-8 p.m., at Promises to Keep, Route 28, Derry. Tickets $35, eat locally made soup out of hand-crafted pottery bowl. Tickets sell out quickly. Call 432-0877 or visit temple at 58 E. Broadway during business day. Visit comcaregivers.org.

• **RUSSIAN TEA** on Sat., Feb. 1, at 1 p.m., at Studio 550 Art Center, 550 Elm St., Manchester. Party hosted by local artist, historian and educator Marina Forbes. Traditional Russian tea party, free, open to anyone interested in learning about Forbes' annual cultural tour to Russia. Contact Forbes at 332-2255 or email marina@anylanguage.org if you'd like to attend.

• **GIFTS FROM THE HEART** at Western Avenue's First Saturday Open Studios and Lofts (122 and 160 Western Ave., Lowell) on Sat., Feb. 1, noon-5 p.m. Pick up postcard on way to buildings, visit participating studios, browse art, buy Valentine's Day gifts for all.

• **VALENTINE SHOPPING EVENT** Fri., Feb. 7 (5:30-8:30

LOCAL — COLOR —

NH art world news



"Contra Couple" by Glenda Blake, on view at McGowan Fine Art's show, "Love, Lust and Desire."

• **Birthdays and date nights:** The Currier is doing some big things in the coming month. In addition to the fact that its art center turns 75 this February, the museum is turning its monthly "First Thursday" event into Currier After Hours. The museum will be open until 9 p.m. starting Thursday, Feb. 6.

"Our goal with this program is to attract working professionals and higher education students or professors," Lynn Thomson, the museum's associate educator for adult and family audiences, said during a phone interview. "The reason we wanted to do this is because we were finding that the time we had before — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — didn't allow people time to get home for work, to change, to get their kids situated. By the time they'd get here, the event would be close to over."

In addition to the time change, the new Currier After Hours program is aimed at allowing more social interaction, more movement and more options than First Thursday, almost like a date night. "When we were looking at the things we did in the past, we saw that there's really not time for socializing," Thomson said. Usually, the Thursday evening events simply involved a musical performance, some of which were two hours long.

"But in March, for example, we're having the Boston Typewriter Orchestra [who performs on Thursday, March 6] come in for two half-hour performances, with a longer intermission that will allow people to get socialized, to have food and look around to see the art," she said. Event organizers hope to incorporate more types of offerings in this late-night program, like food demonstrations, cocktail/beer tastings, etc., she said.

Late-night events, for the most part, will cost the regular admission amount ($12 for adults, $10 for seniors, $9 for students, $5 for youth), but the one celebrating the 75th anniversary, on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., will be free for all. Visit currier.org, call 669-6144 for more information.

• **Lookin' for love?** Or something lovely? You could check an event that enables gift givers without a clue to buy locally handmade items. One is this Saturday, Feb. 1, at Western Avenue Studios and Lofts (122 and 160 Western Ave., Lowell, Mass.), which, between noon and 5 p.m., is kind of like a self-led shopping tour through the studio buildings (pick up a postcard on your way into the lofts and visit the participating artists). There are prizes and raffles, with more information available at westernavenuestudios.com or by calling 508-523-9983. McGowan Fine Art (10 Hills Ave., Concord, 225-2515, mcgowanfineart.com) is also hosting a show, "Love, Lust & Desire," an annual group exhibition that features work by more than 60 different artists. It runs now through Feb. 14, with a reception on Friday, Jan. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. Most of the art on view will be "smaller than a sheet of paper," according to the release, and between $25 to $300. The show contains a wide variety of media, including photography, paintings, sculpture and prints. — *Kelly Sennott*

p.m.), Sat., Feb. 8 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.), and Sun., Feb. 9 (noon-4 p.m.) at Kalily Studio, 27 Huckins Road, Epsom. Locally-made gifts, antique finds, vendors. Visit kalilystudio.com.

• **IMAGO DEI CAFE** venue and gallery events at 123 Hanover St., Manchester; Open Mic on Sat., Feb. 1, at 8 p.m., followed by music by Bluestocking, Vomit Girls, Rachel Vogelzang, Sam Robbins Music, Raven Skye McGill and Emma Bovill. All ages, donations accepted.

• **THE LATIN AMERICAN TAPESTRIES OF MARY MERRILL** presentation/reception on Fri., Feb. 6, 6-9 p.m., at Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, pr@mariposamuseum.org. Amy and Paul Merrill walk talk about their mother's life and journey as an artist. On view through June. Free event.

Theater

• ***THE DEVIL'S MUSIC: THE LIFE AND BLUES OF BESSIE SMITH*** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, runs through Feb. 2. Tickets start at $20.

• ***ANNIE JR.*** performed by West Running Brook Middle School drama club on Fri., Jan. 31, at 7 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 1, at 4 p.m., at Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry. Tickets $10. Visit stockbridgetheatre.com, call 437-5210.

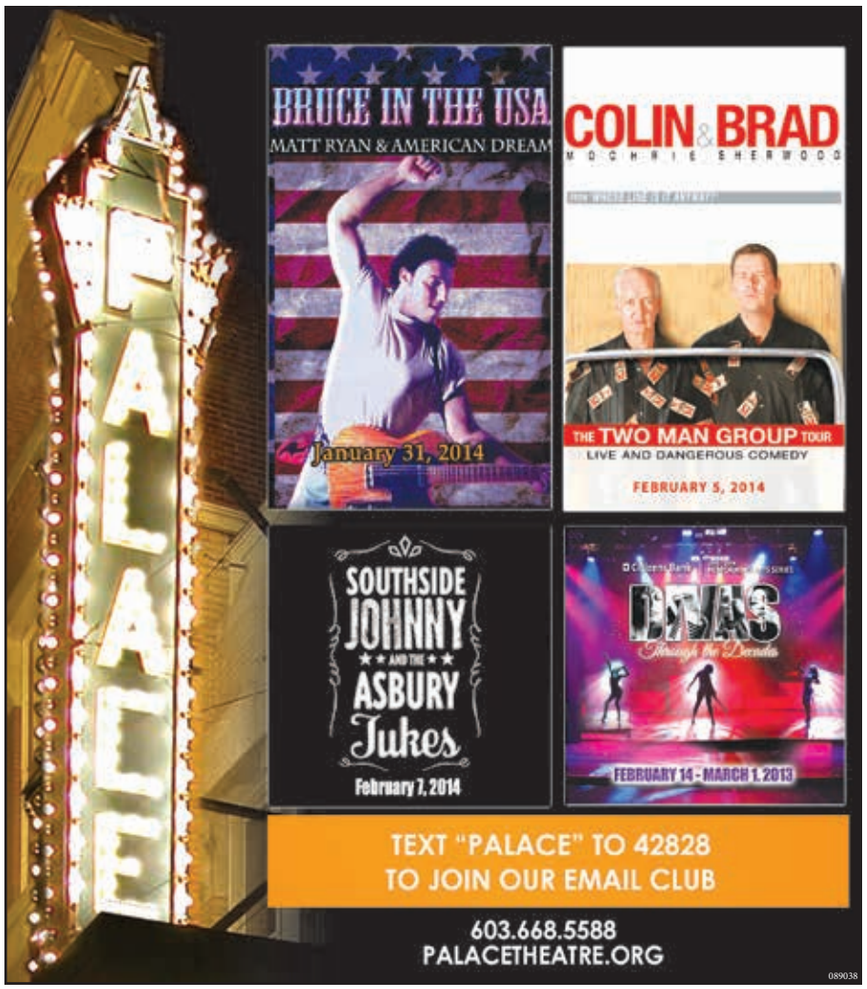
• ***GROOVIN' ON THE GO*** all-dance production presented by Riverbend Youth Company at Amato Center for the Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St., Milford, on Fri., Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 1, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. Tickets $12 for adults, $8 for students/seniors at the door, Toadstool Bookshop, Milford, online. Call 672-1002, ext. 20, visit svbgc.org/theater.aspx.

• **ALMOST PSYCHIC** mind reader, stage hypnotist and sword swallower Roderick Russell performs at Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Isling-

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ARTS

The results are in

How NH theater stacked up in 2013



John McAllister (right) was the recipient of the Francis Grover Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award. Photo courtesy of © Arnold Imaging, on behalf of NHTA.

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Last Saturday, New Hampshire's theater community gathered together for the 12th Annual New Hampshire Theater Awards at the Stockbridge Theater in Derry. In the midst of the excitement, there were three highlights in particular: Tom Partridge won the Children's and Youth Theatre Award; John McAllister was the recipient of the Francis Grover Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Winnipesaukee Playhouse won the "Matty" Award for Vision and Tenacity.

12th Annual New Hampshire Theatre Awards Winners

Best Production - Drama/Comedy - Community: *Wit*, Milford Area Players

Best Production - Musical - Community: *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Production - Drama/Comedy - Professional: *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Production - Musical - Professional: *Singin' in the Rain*, New London Barn Playhouse

Best Production - Youth: *Shrek - The Musical*, Peacock Players

Best Director - Drama/Comedy - Community: Dennis O'Neil, *Of Mice and Men*, M&D Productions

Best Director - Musical - Community: Will McGregor, *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Director - Drama/Comedy - Professional: Charles Morey, *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Director - Musical - Professional: Bryan Halperin, *The Fantasticks*, Winnipesaukee Playhouse

Best Original Playwright - Community: Tana Sirois, Michael Shawn O'Keefe & Keith Weirich, *Alice In Wonderland*, Peacock Players

Best Original Playwright - Professional: Timothy Prager & Geoff Morrow, *A Legendary Romance*, New London Barn Playhouse

Best Actor - Drama/Comedy - Community: Dan Tetreault as Lennie Small in *Of Mice and Men*, M&D Productions

Best Actor - Musical - Community: Max McGrath as Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Actor - Drama/Comedy - Professional: Jack Koenig as Gordon Page in *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Actor - Musical - Professional: Adam Hadas as El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Winnipesaukee Playhouse

Best Actor - Youth: Peter Newland as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts

Best Actress - Drama/Comedy - Community: Katie Collins as Vivian Bearing in *Wit*, Milford Area Players

Best Actress - Musical - Community: Alison Coombs as Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, North Country Community Theatre

Best Actress - Drama/Comedy - Professional: Angela Smith as Gaius Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Advice To The Players

Best Actress - Musical - Professional: Jenna Sisson as Billie Hathaway in *A Legendary Romance*, New London Barn Playhouse

Best Actress - Youth: Gracie Kontak as Belle in *Disney's Beauty and The Beast, Jr.*, Children's Theatre Project

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CURTAIN CALL

Notes from the theater scene



Nashua Theatre Guild performs *Brilliant Traces* starting Feb. 6. Courtesy photo.

• **Nashua Theatre Guild's *Brilliant Traces:*** The company performs *Brilliant Traces* by Cindy Lou Johnson at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua, on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 7, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. Directed by William McGregor, the show is about a woman who finds herself at the doorstep of a reclusive young man in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness, just days after she was supposed to be married in Arizona. Tickets are $15. Call 880-0243 or visit the Guild's Facebook page.

• **And the show goes on!** Paul Brogan of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra said in an email that GSSO is coming back with two concerts to mark its milestone 20th season this spring. The first will be "Renewal," on Saturday, April 5, at the Concord City Auditorium, and the second, "American Music," is on Saturday, May 10, also at the Audi (tickets will be $20, call 226-4776). These concerts are of significance because at the end of last summer, orchestra members and organizers decided to postpone its 20th season after many unexpected challenges (last-minute concert postponement due to presidential visit, scheduling conflicts, weather) which caused a financial shortage at the end of season 19. Orchestra fans were requested on the website (gsso.org) to complete a survey, which had positive results, Brogan said.

"What we have learned is that Concord wants a fully-professional symphony orchestra and that rumors of our demise were premature," Brogan wrote. Keep tabs here and on the website for further updates.

• **Teen audition alert:** The Majestic Theatre is looking for teens ages 13 through 19 to perform in *Sweeney Todd: School Edition* on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m., and Monday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., at the Majestic Theatre's rehearsal studios at 922 Elm St., Suite 315, downtown Manchester. The show was adapted for teens, with the direct help of Stephen Sondheim, who wrote the show's music and lyrics, but still retains the grand scope, as described in the press release. The show will be performed May 30 through June 1. Visit majestictheatre.net for audition requirements; call 669-7469 to schedule an appointment.

• **Local youth invited to perform *Hamlet* in England:** Project Shakespeare, an nonprofit that engages young theater artists based in Jaffrey, was invited by the Royal Shakespeare Company to perform the group's rendition of *Hamlet* in their outdoor theater, The Dell, in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England in August 2014. The original performance was supposed to be August 2013, but there wasn't enough time to raise the necessary funds. But the company is trying again: The youth theater company is launching an IndieGoGo campaign to raise the money needed to send students to perform in Shakespeare's hometown. Visit igg.me/at/PSattheRSC or visit IndieGoGo.com and enter "Project Shakespeare Goes to England" in the search box. Visit projectshakespeare.org. — *Kelly Sennott*

ton St., Portsmouth, on Sat., Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $24, purchase at pontine.org. Email info@pontine.org, call 436-6660.

• ***THE THREE ORANGES*** marionette puppet play at Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposamuseum.org, on Sun., Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. Admission $6. Performed by teachers from Pine Hill Waldorf School, for all ages, especially kids 3-8 years.

• ***THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL*** performed by the Rochester Opera House Productions at the Rochester Opera House, City Hall, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, through Feb. 2. Tickets $16-$20. Call 335-1992.

• ***TEMPTRESS*** at The Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123, playersring.org, Jan. 24 through Feb. 9, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets $15 general, $12 students.

• ***SLEEPING BEAUTY*** presented by Nureyev Ballet on Tues., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m., at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets $20-$58.

• ***THE CIVIL WAR*** at Stockbridge Theatre, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry, stockbridgetheatre.com, 437-5120, on Tues., Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. Performed by Theatreworks. Tickets $6-$8.

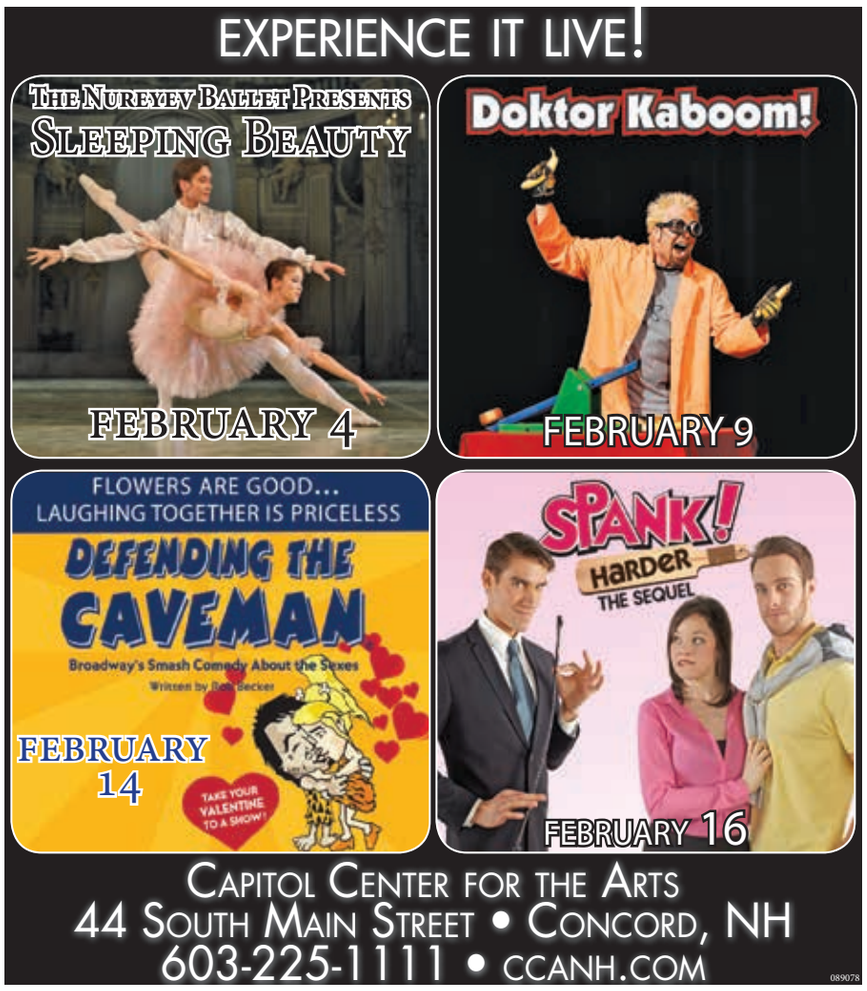
• ***A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*** inaugural "Shakespeare in the Snow" performance by Cara Chameleon Club on Fri., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 9, at 2 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $20. Call 207-358-9887, visit theatreunmasked.com, email info@theatreunmasked.com.

• ***BEST OF IDA*** at Garrison Players theater on Fri., Feb. 7, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 8, at 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. Comedy starring Susan Poulin. Tickets $18. Call 750-4278, visit garrisonplayers.org.

• ***MAKING GOD LAUGH*** presented by Majestic Theatre on Fri., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 8, at 7 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m., at Chateau Event Center, 201 Hanover St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net.







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Best Supporting Actor - Drama/Comedy - Community: Kevin D. O'Neil as Candy in *Of Mice and Men*, M&D Productions

Best Supporting Actor - Musical - Community: Joseph Paoni as Marius in *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Supporting Actor - Drama/Comedy - Professional: Michael Goodfriend as Tyler Taylor in *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Supporting Actor - Musical - Professional: Thom Miller as Vincent / Seth in *A Legendary Romance*, New London Barn Playhouse

Best Supporting Actor - Youth: Mac Galinson as Donkey in *Shrek - The Musical*, Peacock Players

Best Supporting Actress - Drama/Comedy - Community: Mia Moravis as Corinna / Nan in *Henceforward . . .*, Branch River Theatre

Best Supporting Actress - Musical - Community: Sheree Owens as Eponine in *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Supporting Actress - Drama/Comedy - Professional: Erin Neufer as Mary Pierre in *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Supporting Actress - Musical - Professional: Katie Proulx as The Mute in *The Fantasticks*, Winnipesaukee Playhouse

Best Supporting Actress - Youth: Tie; Elsa Keefe as Little Red Ridinghood in *Into The Woods*, Peacock Players and Hannah Benson as Little Sally in *Urinetown*, Actorsingers, Teen

Best Music Director - Community: Judy Hayward, *Les Miserables*, Actorsingers

Best Music Director - Professional: Judy Hayward, *The Fantasticks*, Winnipesaukee Playhouse

Best Choreographer - Community: Beth Fenske, *Monty Python's Spamalot,* Community Players of Concord

Best Choreographer - Professional: Keith Coughlin, *Singin' In the Rain,* New London Barn Playhouse

Best Costume Designer - Community: Bay Bean, *Monty Python's Spamalot,* Community Players of Concord

Best Costume Designer - Professional: Sam Fleming, *Seagull*, Peterborough Players

Best Scenic Designer - Community: Wallace J. Pineault, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, Community Players of Concord

Best Scenic Designer - Professional: Bill Clarke, *Laughing Stock*, Peterborough Players

Best Sound Designer - Community: Michael D. O'Keefe, *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Sound Designer - Professional: RJ Hetman, *A Legendary Romance*, New London Barn Playhouse

Best Lighting Designer - Community: Dennis Schneider, Craig Brennan, *Les Miserables*, Nashua Actorsingers

Best Lighting Designer - Professional: Matthew Guminski, *The Fantasticks*, Winnipesaukee Playhouse

atre.net. Tickets $35 Friday/Saturday, $32 Sunday. Dinner included.

• ***BRILLIANT TRACES*** by Cindy Lou Johnson at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua, on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 7, at 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 8, at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets $15, call 880-0243 or visit Nashua Theatre Guild's Facebook page.

• ***DOKTOR KABOOM*** at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com, on Sun., Feb. 9, at 1 and 4 p.m. Comedy show of experiments and demonstrations, for kids. Tickets $20.

• ***RENT: SCHOOL EDITION*** by Derryfield School Players at Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $12 per person. Visit etix.com. Remaining tickets sold at auditorium starting an hour before each show. Held in conjunction with reception for photographer Robert Janules and Painter Richard Widhu, whose works, "A Shared Vision," on display at Lyceum Gallery on Friday 5:30-7 p.m.

• ***DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN*** Valentine's Day show on Fri., Feb. 14, at 8 p.m., at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets $35-$45, visit ccanh.com, call 225-1111. About the ways men and women relate to one another.

• ***VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER THEATER: IMPERSONATORS OF ROMANCE*** show on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Performances held at Bow Lake Grange, Province Road, Strafford. Tickets $25, includes dinner. Payment in advance, cash/check only. Reservations required. Call 664-2487. Performance by Lakeside Players.

• ***KONG'S NIGHT OUT*** presented by Community Players of Concord on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; & Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $14-$16.

Classical

• **GREGG PAULEY** puts on concert series, "What's in a Name" is on Fri., Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m., at 23 Wall St., Concord, 228-1196, ccmusicschool.org. Tickets $15. Part of series of 32 piano sonatas over three years. Visit greggpauley.com.

• **DUO VERSUS** concert on Sat., Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., at Paul Creative Arts Center, Johnson Theatre, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Two like-minded musicians perform with violin, accordion, tickets $30, $10 UNH student with ID, visit unharts.com, 862-7222.

• **SOUTHERN NH UKULELE GROUP GROUNDHOG DAY LUAU** on Sat., Feb. 1, 5:30-10 p.m., at Best Western Hotel, 580 U.S. 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, 436-7600, raffle, $30, includes live music food, cash bar. Visit snhugluau.brownpapertickets.com.

• **UNH CHAMBER SINGERS** perform on Sun., Feb. 2, at 3 p.m., at the Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free event. Call 862-2404.

• **NICHOLAS OROVICH AND ARLENE KIES** play the trombone, piano, at Verrette Recital Hall, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham, on Tues., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. Part of UNH Dept. of Music Faculty Concert Series. Free, open to public.

• **RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS** Bagpipes with attitude, concerton Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m., at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com. Free, reservations required.



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Presented by: SVI Systems
1:00 Working With A Custom Builder
Presented by: Tarkka Homes

Additional Seminars to be added, check NorthernShows.com for titles & times.

GB8377

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From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Wood and light

Hobby leads to unique lampshades

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com



Bloch in his studio making a lampshade. Courtesy photo.

In his New London studio, standing behind a lathe, Peter Bloch will work for hours as the wheel spins, turning wood into something artistic and unique — but also highly functional.

For more than 15 years, Bloch has been making lampshades out of wood.

As a woodworking hobbyist, Bloch used to create hollow vessels in his studio. At one point, he noticed that just a hint of light poured through them.

"It had just a little bit of glow," Bloch said. "I was surprised by that. You wouldn't think wood was translucent."

Bloch uses aspen wood, an ordinary wood found throughout the country. Here in New Hampshire, the wood is the widest in diameter he has seen — lucky for him.

"The wood's not generally used by woodworkers; it's sort of like a junk species," Bloch said. "But I'm taking it and making something really beautiful and unique with it."

Bloch said he's often asked whether the lampshade is safe.

"They won't catch fire," he said. "People have paper lampshades that are way more likely to catch fire. The hottest my lampshades will get is 110 degrees, which is really just hot water. It's not even close to dangerous."

Bloch said the lampshades are extremely durable and won't crack. He also makes bases and engineers the lighting. He makes about 75 lampshades a year for his clients and showcases his creations at craft fairs and exhibits.

"It's a different kind of purchase. It's functional, but it's art. It's an heirloom, and it's one of a kind," Bloch said. "They're completely handmade. … There's a person behind it, and I think it's important not to have that made-from-China feel. … They're buying a story, not an object."

Each lampshade comes from a local log of wood. Bloch will make up to five lampshades from one log. Each log he uses needs to be 6 to 12 months old. Bloch will often go with loggers to pick out the trees he uses and watch the process.

"I'm involved in that initial level and not just what comes in the door," Bloch said.

When finished, Bloch will use a polymerized oil finish on the lampshade to help protect the wood. It also helps enhance the translucency.

"The colors in the wood [are] pretty magical," Bloch said. "That has never gotten old."

Right now, Bloch is starting to take on larger projects while he still can. He often teams up with other crafters to create multi-shade pieces, like chandeliers, for dining rooms and kitchens.

Bloch also creates little candle holders and tea lights as well as pepper grinders and pepper and salt shakers. The wood he uses for these pieces comes from around the world.

"I enjoy woodturning. It's a very hands-on type of woodworking," Bloch said. "It's a form of carving really close to the wood. It's very controlled by hand, and that's a pleasurable way to work with wood. It's very improvisational."

Peter Bloch Wood Lampshades

What: Lampshades and other small accessories made from wood
Where to find his work: Art and craft fairs and exhibits throughout the state and at woodshades.com
Contact: 526-6152 or peterbloch@woodshades.com

Children & Teens

Events

• **JOIN GIRL SCOUTS** Leach Library (276 Mammoth Road, Londonderry) will host an information night on Thurs., Jan 30. from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for those interested in joining girl scouts. Visit girlscoutsgwm.org or call 888-474-9686.

• **GIRL SCOUT INFORMATIONAL MEETING** Dudley Tucker Library (6 Epping St., Raymond, 716-1223, epoirier@girlscoutsgwm.org) will hold an informational meeting for girl scouts on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m.

• **MEET THE BERENSTAIN BEARS** The Children's Museum (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will host an event with the berenstain bears on Sat., Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The book series will be read and there will be games and crafts. Admission is $9, free for museum members.

• **ELF ON THE SHELF** at Barnes and Noble (Manchester, 668-0022) on Sat., Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. will be a Birthday Tradition storytime and activity day.

• **TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY** at Chester Public Library (3 Chester St., Chester, 887-3404, chesterlibrary.com) on Sat., Feb. 1, at 10 a.m. There will be a story time, crafts, and library cards for kids 6 and older.

• **GROUNDHOG DAY MIDWINTER CELEBRATION** at Beaver Brook (117 Ridge Road, Hollis,465-7787, beaverbrook.org) will take place on Sun., Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to noon. There will be puppet show, a hike and soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Cost is $10.

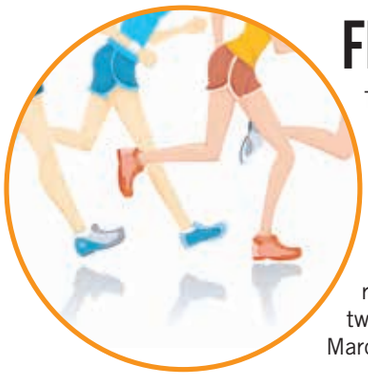
• **LOVE MONSTER** at Barnes and Noble (Manchester, 668-0022) on Sat., Feb 8, at 11 a.m. It will be a storytime, activity day with a hair, googly-eyed monster.

• **VALENTINES DAY CRAFTS** at the Wadleigh Public Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will be on Sat., Feb. 8, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Kids will make a card and decorate hearts.

• **THE CREATIVITY CAN** at Barnes & Noble (Manchester, 668-0022) on Sun., Feb. 9, at 11 a.m. Kids can let their creativity out and do fun activities.

• **EXPLORING OUR WAY AUTISM** The Children's Museum (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) encourages families with autism to come to the museum free of charge on Sun., Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon.

• **KIDS VALENTINE NIGHT** The Children's Museum (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will have an



FREEZE YOUR BUNS!

The Gate City Striders will hold another race in its Freeze Your Buns running series on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 9 a.m. at the Conway Arena (West Hollis Street, Nashua). The course is 3.1 miles and the registration fee is $5 for ages 19 and up. If you are 18 and younger, the fee is $3. Hot beverages and light refreshments at the end of each race. The last two races of the series will be held Feb. 16 and March 2. Visit gatecity.org.

event for Valentines day with a scavenger hunt, crafts and science activities on Sun., Feb 14, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Food will be provided. Registration is required. Cost is $30 per child.

• **VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY** at the Meredith Public Library (91 Main St., Meredith, 279-4303, meredithlibrary.org) on Fri., Feb. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be cookie and card decorating. It will be first come, first serve.

• **VALENTINES TEA PARTY** at the Kingston Library (2 Library Lane, Kingston, 642-3521, kingston-library.org) will take place on Fri., Feb. 14, at 11 a.m. Ages 3 and up are welcome to listen to Valentines Day stories and enjoy tea or juice.

Museums

Exhibits

• **CHEF NICOLE** The SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, seesciencecenter.org) has a new exhibit, "Science in The Kitchen With Chef Nicole," on display. Kids will learn the science behind cooking. The exhibit is open to the public 7 days a week from 10 to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 10 to 5 p.m. on weekends. Admission is $8.

• **FRENCH VILLAGE** The Nashua Historical Society's Florence Speare Museum (5 Abbot St., Nashua, 883-0015, nashuahistoricalsociety.org/spearemuseum) now has a display on the historic French Village of Nashua. Open Tues. through Thurs. from 10 to 3 p.m.

• **HISTORICAL ROOMS** Wilton Public Library (7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581, wiltonlibrary.org) has the Wilton Historical Society artifacts and displays on the top floor of the library. It is open to the public Thursdays from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

• **LUNAR RECON: SPACECRAFT, CRATERS AND COSMIC RAYS** at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Dr., Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com). The exhibit will detail the discoveries of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission launched by NASA.

• **POLITICAL MEMORABILIA** on exhibit at the Nashua City Hall (299 Main St., Nashua) from the Nashua Historian Frank Mooney until the end of March. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

• **MATCHBOOKS** Nashua City Hall (229 Main St., Nashua, 589-3000, gonashua.com) has a display of matchbook advertising in the Nashua Historical Society's wall cases on the first floor. City Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The display is free to view.

• **SCIENCE FICTION EXHIBIT** at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Dr., Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com). The exhibit will allow visitors to sit in chairs used in the set of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and will feature a costume worn in *Star Trek: The Movie*. There is also a display of science-fiction toys that have been lent to the museum by community members. Admission is $10 for adults, $7 for ages 3 to 12, $9 for ages 62 and older, $9 for ages 13 through college and free for 2 and younger.

• **SHARING SACRED GROUND: WEAVING THREADS OF MEMORY AND CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS** at Mariposa Museum (26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, mariposa-museum.org) is a new exhibit showcasing the Late American tapestries of Mary Merrill. A reception is set for Fri., Feb. 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. for the opening of the exhibit. This event is free. The exhibit will run from now until June.

• **WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES** is a new planetarium show at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Dr., Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com). The exhibit will feature *Back to the Moon for Good*, narrated by Tim Allen, a story on teams vying to win the Google Lunar XPRIZE by placing a robot on the moon's surface.

History & museum events

• **TRAIL NAMES LECTURE SERIES** Portsmouth Black Heritage will honor Elinor Williams Hooker on Feb. 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Discover Portsmouth (10 Middle St., Portsmouth, 436-8433, portsmouthhistory.org). The series will continue on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

• **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** will be portrayed by Steven Wood at the Meredith Public Library (91 Main St., Meredith, 279-4303, meredithlibrary.org) on Tues., Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate his birthday. This event is free and will have a reading of the Gettysburg Address. Light refreshments will be served.

• **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD** The Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) will host a presentation about the underground railroad in New England on Sat., Feb. 8, at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Miscellaneous

Expos/festivals/fairs

• **HOLISTIC FAIR** Country Inn and Suites (250 S. River Road, Bedford, todaysnewdawn@yahoo.com) will host a holistic fair on Sun., Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL** (Portsmouth, functions@portsmouthgaslight.com) Thurs., Feb. 13 through Feb. 17. There will be ice bars, fire pits, hearth cooking, dog sled rides, wood fire grilled food, ice sculptures, movies and music. Visit strawberybank.org for prices and times.

• **WINTERFEST** on Fri., Feb. 21, and Sat., Feb 22, will take place in Lowell, Mass. (978-459-6150, lowell.org). There will be an open skate, a dance party, music, games and craft activities.

Pop culture

• **ALTERNATIVE FASHION SHOW** at Southern New Hampshire University (North River Road, Manchester) on Feb. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets are $20. Visit alyssaleecouture.com.

• **RUNWAY INDONESIA CHARITY FASHION SHOW** at the Portsmouth Gas Light (64 Market St., Portsmouth, 430-8582, portsmouthgaslight.com) on Sat., Feb. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. The show will feature C Style





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IN/OUT

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Animal adventures

The Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will present "**Hooved in New Hampshire**," a presentation for families about deer and moose, on Friday, Jan. 31, from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is $5 per family and registration is required.

The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will have a **groundhog day celebration** on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Find out if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow. There will be games, storytelling and outdoor activities. Cost is $9.

Scout sessions

There will be a **Girl Scouts informational meeting** on Thursday, Jan. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Dudley-Tucker Library (6 Epping St., Raymond) and one from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Leach Library (276 Mammoth Road, Londonderry). Call 716-1223, email epoirier@girlscoutsgwm.org or visit girlscoutsgwm.org).

Story time

The Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will host an **event with the Berenstain Bears** on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The book series will be read and there will be games and crafts. Admission is $9, free for museum members.

Barnes & Noble (1741 S. Willow Street, Manchester, 668-5557) will host an **Elf on the Shelf event** on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. It will be a Birthday Tradition storytime and activity day. This event is free.

The Goffstown Public Library (2 High Street, Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstownlibrary.org) will have a **Take Your Child to the Library Day** story and craft on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Parents and kids in grade 5 and up can drop in and listen to a story at 10 a.m. and do crafts all day, and kids can even bring home a book to keep.

Treasure hunt

There will be a **treasure hunt day** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) on Friday, Jan. 31, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. as part of January fun days. Attendees will earn raffle tickets for participating.

See a show

The Riverbend Youth Company will present an all-dance production of "***Groovin' on the Go***," at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts (56 Mont Vernon St., Milford) on Friday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 2, the show will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12 for adults, and $8 for students and seniors, at the door or online at svbgc.org/theater.aspx.

The Manchester Library West Branch (76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, manchesterlibrary.org) will show the movie ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*** on Friday, Jan. 31, from 3 to 5:15 p.m. This movie is free and rated PG.

Boutique and the new collection that will be on the racks at the boutique from indonesia.

• **VOICES FROM THE BACK STAIRS** at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) will interest all *Downton Abbey* fans as Jennifer Purstz talks about servants in New England on Thurs., Feb. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. This event is free.

Holiday events

• **VALENTINE SHOPPING** at Kalily Studio (27 Huckins Road, Epsom, kalilystudio.com) on Feb. 7 through Feb. 9 to shop for locally made gifts. Admission is free and tea anc cocoa will be given when you browse.

• **VALENTINES DANCE** with tribute to Gazpacho on Sat., Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. at American Legion (Foundry St., Rollinsford, facebook.com/nhderby). Tickets are $10. Light snacks will be available.

• **ROMANCING THE TAVERN** Folsom Tavern (164 Water St., Exeter,772-2622, independencemuseum.org) will host Kathleen Campbell of Cornucopia on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to educate and offer samples of wine and chocolate. Every couple will get a rose and have the option of having a person love letter transcribed onto parchment. $18 per person.

Other

• **LADIES' NIGHT OUT** The Hooksett Library (31 Mt. St. Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org) will have a ladies' night out event on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. There will be 35 vendors with jewelry, accessories and beauty products.

• **ALMOST PSYCHIC** at the Pontine's West End Studio Theatre (959 Islington St., Portsmouth, 436-6660, pontine.org) brings Roderick Russell, a mind reader, stage hypnotist and sword swallower, to perform on Sat., Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $24.

• **SUNCOOK VALLEY WOMEN'S DAY** at the Pittsfield Advent Christian Church (68 Main St., Pittsfield, 942-6262, dorbev5@gmail.com) on Sat., Feb. 8, from noon to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $8 in advance and $10 at the door.

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IN/OUT TREASURE HUNT



Dear Donna,

I have had this lamp since I was a kid, and it still works. I have spent many nights watching this at bedtime and have very fond memories. It's called a motion lamp, and it's of the Road Runner. I am wondering if this is old enough to be considered an antique, and are there collectors out there for them?
— Carl

Dear Carl,

I love your motion lamp. How fun it must have been for you to watch when you were young. To answer your first question, Carl, no it's not old enough to be an antique (that has to be at least 100 years old), but it is definitely old enough to be collectible.

Motion lamps have been around since the 1930s. Their most popular time was during the 1950s. They were heat-run lamps that, when plugged in, made one circle inside another turn so everything seems to be moving. One of the most popular ones around is of Niagara Falls. When it's lit you can see the water flowing over the falls and all kinds of wonderful colors.

When you can find these lamps that are not in melted condition or with torn plastic, they are collectible. As with everything else, common ones bring the least of money and rarer ones the most. Sometimes they have very detailed metal scenes around the moving part, and those are worth more as well. And then some are just plain and mass-produced.

I have to say, Carl, I have seen many, but not like yours. That must be very sweet lit up, seeing the Road Runner moving. If all is OK with the lamp and there is no damage, I would say your lamp is in the $200 range. And I do think a collector would be happy to have that one in his collection.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

John Higby at the Pontine Theatre (959 Islington St., Portsmouth, pontine.org) will be on Sat., March 8, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12. There will be fun yoyo tricks as well as hula hooping and unicycling.

• **COMMUNITY HU CHANT** on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester), on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., at Cathy Krueger Massage Therapy Office (41 Avon St., Keene), on the second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m., at the Hampton Inn (9 Hotel Dr., Dover) and on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 7 p.m., at the Exeter Public Library (4 Chestnut St., Exeter). Call 800-713-8944 or visit eckankar-nh.org.

• **ECKANKAR WORSHIP SERVICE** on the second Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. at the Holiday Inn (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester) and 11 a.m., at the Hampton Inn (9 Hotel Dr., Dover). Call 800-713-8944 or visit eckankar-nh.org.

Travel & culture

• **GUIDE TO RUSSIA** The Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4610, nashualibrary.org) will host Marina Forbes to talk about Russia on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. This event is free and registration is not required.

• **WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL EVENT** Southern NH University will host Jim Smith, a former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, on Fri., Jan. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hospitality Center (2500 N. River Road, Manchester, 314-7970, wacnh.org). Tickets are $20 and advance registration is requested.

• **FARAWAY PLACES** an adult series at the Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org) will host Nancy Nee Hanifin as she presents "Walking the Way: 500 Miles Along Spain's Camino de Santiago" on Tues., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. She will present abotu the walk, the history and the culture with photos as well.

• **POST-AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST: PAKISTAN'S PLACE** will be held at University of New Hampshire Manchester (400 Commercial St., Manchester) on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. Registration required at wacnh.org.

Marketing & Business

Marketing

• **ESSENTIALS OF AN ONLINE PRESENCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS** at Dion Center (16 Clement St., Nashua, 666-7561, merrimackvalley.score.org) will be held on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. A $25 donation is requested.

• **30 SECOND COMMERCIAL** at the Wadleigh Public Libary (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will be on Fri., Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. This class will teach you how to introduce yourself without being intimidated. This class is free.

Personal finance

•**TAX HELP** at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) will take place on Tuesdays starting Feb. 4 through April 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30

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IN/OUT THE GARDENING GUY

Starting from seeds

Dreaming of tomatoes and cucumbers

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

The seed catalogs have been arriving in my post office box for weeks now, and I've been reading them and dreaming of fat, juicy tomatoes and sweet crunchy cucumbers. It's too early to plant seeds indoors, but I'm getting ready now.

The first step in starting plants from seed is always to sort out what seeds I have, and to throw out the seeds that are past their "best used by" date. As a general rule I use three years as a limit for keeping and using seeds. There are a few things that will last longer, and a few that are best bought each year. But three years is a good rule of thumb. You might want to test a few seeds you have left in the closet now to see if they will germinate.

Here is how to test for seed viability: Count out 10 seeds and place them on a good tough paper towel, and label the towel with a waterproof marker or pencil. Dampen the towel, fold it over a few times and place it in a zipper bag. I left the bags open, thinking that a sealed bag might promote rotting of the seeds, but in one case, the paper towel dried out in places, which is sure death to seeds just starting. I checked the seeds after one week (nothing) and after two weeks. Some seeds may require even longer.

There are a few seeds worth buying every year as they do not germinate well, even on their second year. Among those are corn, onions and parsley. And you can do a test germination if you wish for seeds that are 3 years old or more. This year I tried two kinds of onions (to test the one-year rule), artichokes and celeriac (supposedly good for five years).

The onions germinated poorly, as forecast. Thirty percent of one variety germinated, none of another. The artichokes germinated poorly, but the paper had gotten a bit dry. I only tried five seeds, and two of them germinated in the second week, sending out 3-inch roots and incipient leaves. I then planted those two seedlings in a large, deep pot, because I have a hard time killing plants. And artichokes take a long time to develop big plants, so I thought I'd let a few get an early start.

How you store your seeds makes a difference in viability, too. I store half-used seed packets in open zipper bags on a shelf in a closet. It gets neither excessively hot nor cold in the closet, and the humidity is neither high nor low, in general. Remember that seeds have living tissue inside, so overheating or drying out completely would be bad — though some seeds seem to have outer coverings as tough as any plastic. Freezing seeds does not seem to harm them, and that is the way most seed banks store their seeds.

Also at this time of year you can begin to assemble all the supplies and equipment needed for growing seedlings indoors. That means cleaning out all of last year's pots and six-packs for starting seedlings, and buying new ones as needed. As a general rule, the deeper the containers, the better. Instead of economizing and getting packs that are 72 to a tray, look for those that are just 36 to tray.


Artichoke seed. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

I also need to find (and clean up) any of the plastic domes I use to cover the trays of started seeds. These are reusable clear plastic covers that fit nicely over a tray and hold in moisture and heat. Seeds that dry out when just germinating do not survive, and these lids are great at containing moisture. I remove them once most seeds have started to grow.

Heat mats are also useful in starting seeds. I place seed trays on them to give a little bottom heat. Seeds germinate better and sooner with bottom heat. Seeds in the wild (without my help and supervision) shouldn't germinate in winter — the seedlings would freeze. But warm soil tells the seeds that summer has arrived — hence the heat mats (to trick them) available at garden centers.

Over the eons, plants have developed triggers for germination, including temperature, presence of moisture, and, for some, sunshine. The photo-trigger means that seeds rototilled deeply won't germinate, which is why I don't rototill: weed seeds will germinate if brought to the surface.

Seedlings often do not do well if planted in garden soil indoors. There is no breeze and no direct sunshine, so they may develop a fungal disease known as "damping off." It is best to buy "potting mix" or "seed starting mix." This fluffy stuff is generally peat-based and sterile. I like to mix it 50-50 with compost, either my own or out of a bag. If you have it in your barn, be sure you thaw it out well in advance.

It's still too early to plant most things, but it's never too early to get organized.

Henry Homeyer is a gardening teacher, coach and public speaker. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

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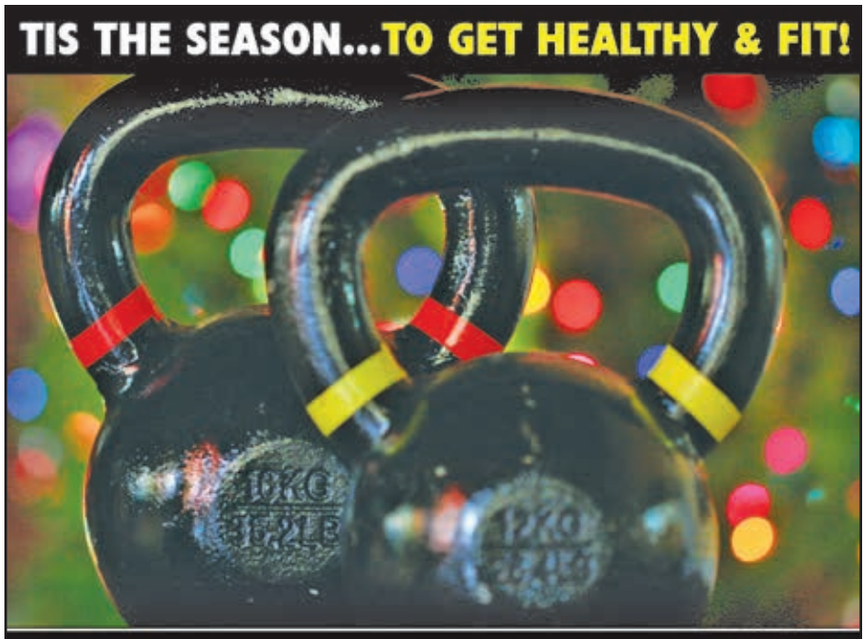


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Sluggishness in low speeds might be fuel-delivery problem



Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 1999 GMC Suburban with a 5.7 V-8 engine and 140,000 miles. Lately, the truck has had problems getting moving from 0 to 30 mph. When I press on the gas, the truck acts as if it is being suffocated. The exhaust sputters and pops. When I floor the gas, the truck takes a couple of seconds to react, usually with a jarring burst forward followed by more self-suffocation. The truck, once moving past 30 mph, works fine. I had a relative inform me that my catalytic converter is "clogged" and that I need a new one. Do you agree? — Al

TOM: This guy's wrong, Al. If your catalytic converter were plugged, you'd have the opposite problem: The car would have no trouble going 0-30 but would bog down at higher speeds. So that's not it.

RAY: What's more likely is that you're having fuel-delivery issues. I'd start by replacing the fuel filter.

TOM: If that doesn't fix it, my guess is that your fuel injectors are not working well. The injectors might not be spraying fuel into the cylinders in the proper pattern, and that's causing imperfect combustion and momentary flooding, and making the car bog down at low speeds.

RAY: Once you get past 30 mph, there's a lot more fuel and more pressure going through the injectors, and that's what makes the spray pattern correct itself. Plus, the car is already moving, which reduces the demand on the engine.

TOM: Your injectors could just be dirty. We rarely see that anymore, because late-model cars have all been running on the newer, cleaner, Tier 3 gasolines that we have these days. But your car is older, and spent many years running on older, dirtier fuel.

RAY: So start by trying a home remedy: Get a couple of cans of BG 44K, if you can find it. Or try Chevron Techron. They're both fuel-system cleaners. Run a bottle of one of those through the system with a tank of gas and see if you get any improvement. If you do, try another bottle or two and see if you can bring it back to where you want it.

TOM: If that doesn't clear it up (it probably won't), your next step would be to find a shop with what we call a Wallet Vac.

RAY: Its real name is the Motor Vac, and it's a machine that forces a solvent through the fuel system at high pressure to clean out gums and varnishes. It works pretty well, but the service will cost you a good $100.

TOM: And if that doesn't work, then you need a mechanic to help you figure out [the problem]. He'd start that process with a complete engine scan.

RAY: You don't want to just go replacing fuel injectors without being pretty certain that they're the problem.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I found a larger oil filter for my car with the same exact specs, except for the length. The larger one is about 1.5 inches longer. With the extra size and more oil capacity, is there any reason not to use the larger one? My car usually takes a Purolator PSL14670. The bigger one is a PSL30001. — Larry

RAY: I don't really recommend it, Larry.

TOM: We do that for some customers' cars at the garage, at their request. There's never anything wrong with the filter that comes with the car; it's designed to do the job. But with a larger filter, where everything else is equal, you'll filter a little more oil per minute, and some people think that helps the engine over time.

RAY: You'll increase your oil capacity by a very small amount, so you'll have to add more oil when you refill the crankcase. But if you pay attention to the "Full" mark on the dipstick, that's not a problem.

TOM: But there are two potential dangers I can think of. One is that your new, larger oil filter does not filter to the same specifications as the OEM part (Original Equipment Manufacturer). A lot of filters look the same, but ... that doesn't mean it'll do what the manufacturer requires it to do.

RAY: The other danger is that on some cars, the filter is in a place where if you make it longer, it can get hit by road debris. That's a potential disaster. If something on the road were to strike the filter and tear it open, you'd lose all your oil in a matter of seconds, and your engine likely would be toast.

TOM: We suggest that you stick with the manufacturer's recommendation for the oil filter. That's 100 percent adequate, and is guaranteed to do the job.

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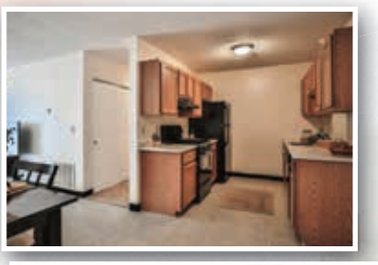
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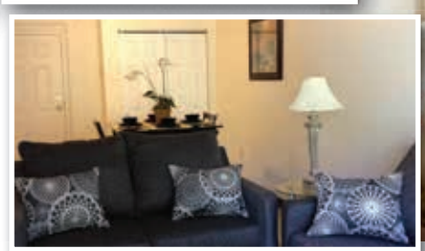
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IN/OUT

Do you believe?

Mediums call Psychic Fair a positive experience

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com



Susan Morgan will be at this Saturday's Psychic Fair at the Hampton Inn in Nashua. Courtesy photo.

Everyone gets a bit curious sometimes about how their life might turn out. Wouldn't it be nice not to always wonder, but to believe that you know?

Step into the world of Angie D'Anjou. She calls herself a psychic and says she operates under the assumption that if she can't disprove it in reality, then it's real.

This weekend D'Anjou will be at the Psychic Fair she organized at the Hampton Inn in Nashua.

"This is a place for people to come together for spiritual experiences and find positive, inspirational growth with their own energy," D'Anjou said.

D'Anjou wants people to know that the fair is for their own benefit and guidance. The psychics will not do anything a person isn't comfortable with. There will always be skeptics, she said, and that's fine.

"It's their path; we're not going to change them," she said. "That's not what we're about."

D'Anjou was adamant that this fair does not dabble in anything negative.

"It's good and it's whole-hearted. There's enough sadness in the world. We try to enlighten [visitors] and keep things positive," she said.

All of the psychics will do readings in a unique way. Terry Milton will do readings with stones and crystals. Ramona Garcia, Marlene Mercedes, Jocelyn Boucher and Michelle Guillemette will all offer guidance for connecting with deceased loved ones.

D'Anjou said there may also be tea leaf readings, palmistry and numerology.

Susan Morgan, a dream specialist, will try to help people decipher their dreams. She has spent that last decade teaching people how to remember and interpret their dreams using heartbeat drumming, an ancient technique of the Native Americans.

Morgan said she believes that "We dream of the future. That's a good portion of our dreams. We can change things in our waking life."

Morgan has written a book about dreams and believes, like D'Anjou, that the work she does can have a positive influence on individuals and society.

"I want to change the world and make it a better place," Morgan said. "We can naturally improve our lives, the earth and living things. Once we start honoring our dreams, we will improve our relationships with people, the earth and animals."

Morgan also calls herself a medium and says she can help people get in touch with loved ones who have died.

"It can bring healing to a relationship that may have ended abruptly or to see how they are doing," she said. "It's a reminder that our relationships with people don't end, they continue on."

D'Anjou does similar work in her basement, which she has turned into a spiritual sanctuary called The Center for Awakening.

Among other things, D'Anjou does readings, reiki training and intuition training. She also does reading parties for groups of people.

"It would be abnormal if it's not there," D'Anjou said of her messages. "It would bother me since I'm so used to it."

At the fair, vendors will sell soy candles, healing stone pendants, lockets and bracelets and energy transformers, among other items.

But D'Anjou said she wants people to know that they're trying to help you, not take your money. This fair is one of many that she organizes throughout the year. Each fair benefits a non-profit organization.

Psychic Fair

Where: 407 Amherst St., Nashua, Hampton Inn.
When: Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact: Angie D'Anjou at 321-4818 or angie@angiedanjou.com.
Visit: angiedanjou.com, thestonelady.net, mysticdreamcenter.com.

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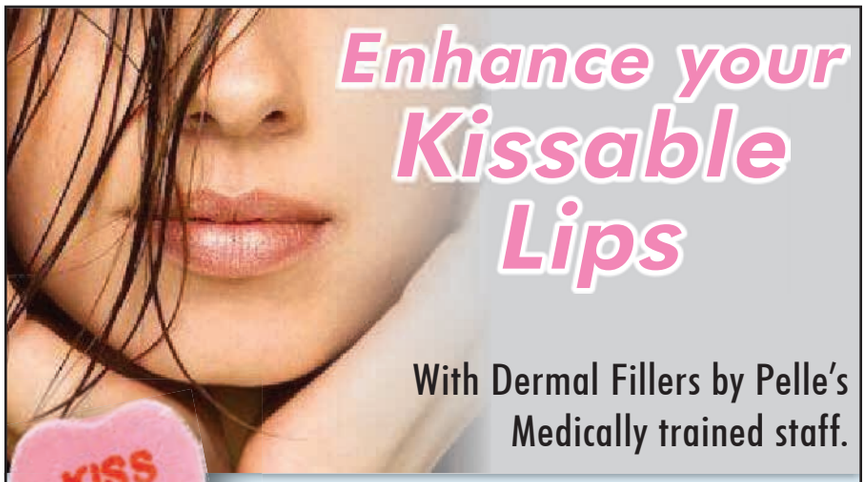
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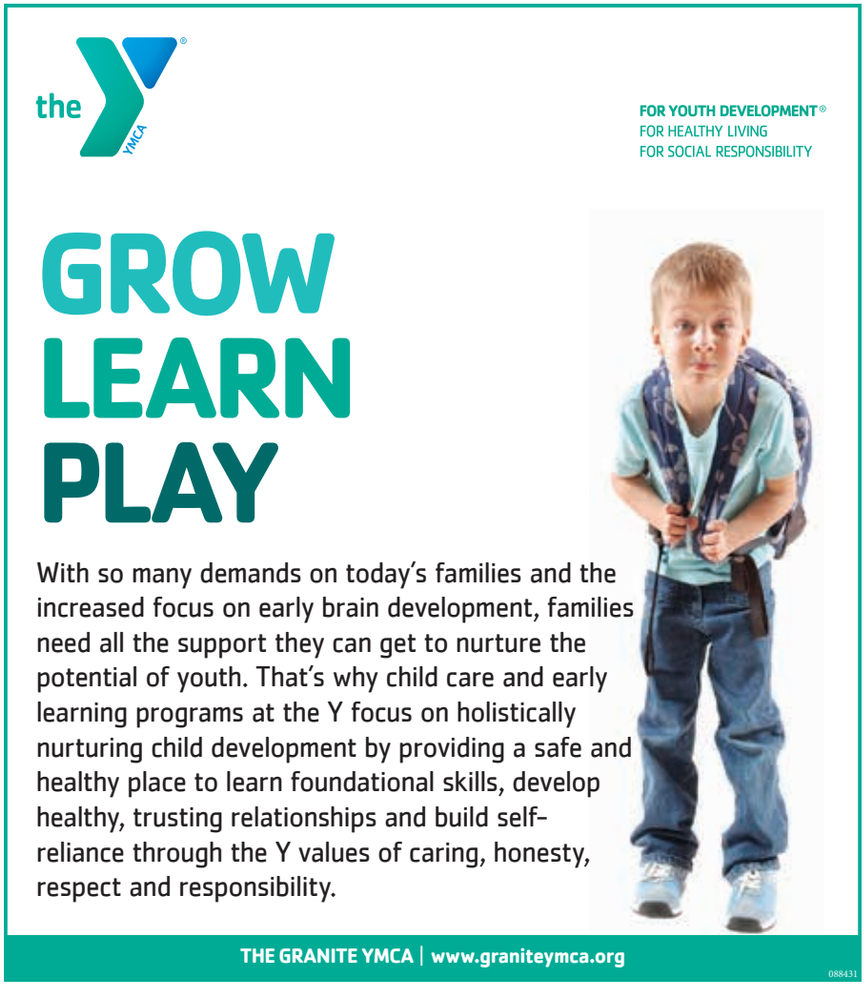
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POND HOCKEY

The New England Pond Hockey Tournament will take place in Meredith this weekend, starting on Friday, Jan. 31, through Sunday, Feb. 2. While the tournament is no longer accepting registrations for teams to participate, those interested are welcome to come watch the tournament. Visit pondhockeyclassic.com/home to view teams, game times and vedors.

p.m. Tax help will be for seniors or low to moderate income families.

• **INVESTMENT PLANNING** at the Wadleigh Public Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will be on Tues., Feb. 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Kim Ponders will give a presentation about outlook, obstacles and opportunities in investment planning. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

• **EXPLORE NEW HAMPSHIRE EMPLOYMENT WEBSITE** on Fri., Feb. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Wadleigh Public Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org). Craig Clifton will help people learn how to network and how to explore NHES.

Nature & Gardening

Animals/insects

• **BUG NIGHTS** at St. Paul's School (Boscawen, 796-2615, merrimackriver.org) to learn about bugs will be held on Wednesdays, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb 26, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16 and April 23, from 6 to 9 p.m.

• **HOOVED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE** The Amoskeag Fishways Learning Center (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will have a family presentation about deer and moose on Jan. 31, from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is $5 per family, registration is required.

• **GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Sat., Feb 1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is $9. There will be games, crafts, storytelling, outdoor activities and a visit with a live groundhog.

• **BEE SCHOOL** The South Congregational Church (25 Pleasant St., Concord, 568-2691, 798-5475, capitalareabeekeepers.org) will host their annual bee school starting Feb. 7. Cost is $55-$60 plus book. Registration is required.

• **TIPS AND TRICKS TO TRACKING** The Nature Cafe at Massabesic (26 Deerneck Road, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) will have a presentation about tracking in winter months on Fri., Feb. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There will be refreshments. Cost is $5 per person.

• **WHERE ARE OUR OSPREYS** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Sat., Feb. 8, from 1 to 2 p.m. As part of Project Osprey Track, Iain MacLeod will give the latest news on satellite-tracked ospreys and their migrations. Cost is $7.

• **TRACKING NH ANIMALS** The Nature Cafe at Massabesic (26 Deerneck Road, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org) will have a presentation and a walk about tracking NH animals on Sat., Feb. 8, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost is $9 per person or $20 per family.

• **WILY WEASELS** The Amoskeag Fishways (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will host a family program about weasels, otters and minks on Thurs., Feb. 28, from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is $5 per family. Registration is required.

Birds

• **HOW MANY BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD** a bird survey will take place on Sat., Feb. 8, and Sun., Feb. 9. Count the birds in your backyard and send in the number to the NH Audubon (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, nhaudubon.org). To receive a reporting form and instructions mail in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the NH Audubon. Visit birdcount.org.

• **WINTER BIRD BANDING** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Wed., Feb 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. $10. See how birds are captured and banded.

Astronomy

• **EVENING SKY OBSERVERS** at the Lawrence Barn (28 Depot Road, Hollis, 465-7721) on the fourth Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. There are telescopes available, but visitors are welcome to bring their own.

Hiking, hikes & walks

• **GUIDED TOUR OF THE LIVE ANIMAL TRAIL** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Sun., Feb. 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. Snowshoes are available at no extra cost. Cost is $10 and registration is required.

• **WINTER WALK** at the Hinman Pond Preserve (Hooksett) will offer a winter walk on Feb., 22, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The walk will be an exploration lead by Bear-Paw volunteer, Frank Mitchell. If the conditions are suitable, bring snowshoes or skis.

• **SNOWSHOE EXPLORATION** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Fri., Feb 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be snowshoes available and live animals to meet. Cost is $9.

Outdoors

• **RESTORATION OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE** Hopkinton Town Library (61 Houston Drive, Contoocook, 746-6121, hopkintontownlibrary.org) will host Curt Laffin as he gives a presentation about the American Chestnut Tree on Feb. 1 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Visit littlenaturemuseum.org.

• **100TH BIRTHDAY** to be celebrated for NH Audubon at the McLane Audubon Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org) on Sat., Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a cake decorating contest with prizes. Register by Feb. 8. Fee is waived if the cake is donated to the raffle.

• **SOLAR ENERGY 101** at the Wadleigh Public Library (49 Nashua St., Milford, 249-0645, wadleighlibrary.org) will be on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. to learn about solar energy basics, how to reduce energy bills and cut c02 emissions with the sun.

• **SNOW AND ICE** at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Sat., Feb. 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. There will be live animals. Cost is $9.

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weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

• **Comings and goings this winter:** In the Gate City, **Cava de Vino** opened Wednesday, Jan. 29, in Railroad Square. Owners Stephen Williams (former owner of Unums Restaurant) and Sharie Webber welcomed Italian winemaker Tony Sasa during the grand opening, coinciding with NH Wine Week, which continues through this weekend. Meanwhile, **Chen Yang Li** is scheduled to make a return to Nashua this winter at 337 Amherst St., according to a December article from the Nashua Telegraph. The same article slated the **Tilted Kilt** to open around St. Patrick's Day in Nashua (tiltedkilt.com). Alex Vandermark, owner of The Juicery, opened **The Soupery** in downtown Portsmouth this past December, offering about 30 different soups, including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free soups (see facebook.com/souperynh). **Skinny's Pizzeria** (168 Amory St., Manchester, 232-7565) is a new eat-in and take-out eatery on Manchester's West Side, with New York style pizza, Italian dishes, bread, desserts, roast beef, soups and meatballs. **CK's**, formerly The Clam King, closed prior to the holidays. Know of other restaurants and markets opening or closing in the area? Email food@hippopress.com.

• **Door-to-Door expands:** Door-to-Door Delivery recently announced that it's expanding its delivery options to Derry, Londonderry and Nashua. The Manchester-based delivery business offers food delivery services from Ben & Jerry's, The Gyro Spot, Milly's Tavern, Fratello's, Mint Bistro, The Derryfield, UnWine'd, Holy Smokes, Luigi's Pizza, Spice Center, Stuffed Sub, Thousand Crane and its newest member, Extreme Pita. See d2ddelivery.com.

• **More coffee:** A few weeks ago, Weekly Dish announced that CQ Coffee Roasters' Kenya Kirinyaga Peaberry ranked fifth place in Coffee Review's Top 30 coffees of the year (see the Jan. 16 issue of the Hippo). Shortly thereafter, owner Claudia Barrett announced on CQ's Facebook page that the roastery will find a new home in Bedford for its roasting and coffee lab. Although the space has been found, the post also stated that more details will follow in mid-February. See facebook.com/CQCoffeeRoasters.

• **Get baking:** Kids ages 4 and up can learn how to bake at Sophisticakes' new one-hour mini-baking classes. Tuition costs $25 for the mini classes that focus on baking fundamentals with recipes like mini confetti cupcakes, mini frosted cookies or mini glazed doughnuts. Sophisticakes is located at 25

49 ▶

FOOD

Pig-out pigskin style

Conquer your Super Bowl menu with these three basics

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

The Pats are out of the game this year, but that doesn't mean your Super Bowl menu has to suffer. Local foodies share their touchdown pointers for game-day eats.

Pass the wings

Both chef Jay Nadeau of Billy's Sports Bar & Grill and Andy Sanborn, owner and chef of The Draft Sports Bar and Restaurant agree: A good wing is all about the meat. It's not about large portions, it's about getting more meat off the bone.

"I only buy the largest wings you get on the market [on] any given day," Sanborn said.

At Billy's, Nadeau said the wings are breaded and fried before a toss in Billy's signature sauces: buffalo, honey barbecue and the occasional special chipotle citrus sauce. There's also the Jamaican jerk chicken wings at Billy's, which are baked instead of fried.

"Baking them cuts down on cholesterol, fat. Not too much of a difference in taste, just difference in texture," Nadeau said. "I think people would rather order [wings] from the restaurant. They're harder to do at home because you need oil."

Over at The Draft, Sanborn prefers wings without breading. Instead, he parcooks the wings to pull the fat out and fries them for a crispy texture.

Wings at The Draft can come in flavors like ginger sesame, six different barbecue sauces and its most popular, the homemade lemon pepper cajun sauce.

"Fifteen years ago you couldn't make the sauce hot enough, where you're sweating when you bite into the wings," he said. "Over time we've gone from specials with 10 different flavors, other times we back it down to five or six. We like to keep it fresh."

Nadeau said the honey barbecue is the least spicy, the Jamaican jerk has a kick, and the buffalo wings aren't "super hot, but they're not mild either," he said.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the weather. It's cold out. A lot of people get the buffalo wings, because it's warming," Nadeau said. "It's just a comfort food for game days, like chili. It doesn't really matter what sport it is."

For homemade buffalo wings, Nadeau recommends starting with Frank's Red Hot and butter as a base.

Down that dip

All a good dip needs is a crunchy dipping partner. Tortilla chips or potato chips (depending on your dip recipe) might be the classic pairing, but don't forget pita bread, homemade croutons or veggies like celery for a good crunch.

Concord-based Mitchell's Fresh makes salsas and six different flavors of dip, including artichoke, blue caesar, buffalo, chili con queso, spinach & cheese and sweet pepper. Owner Corey Mitchell recommends getting creative with game-day dips.

"The flavor pops when you heat it up. It totally changes the dip," he said.

Some of his customers prefer mixing the spinach & cheese with the artichoke, while the blue caesar was inspired as a chicken wing dip. The sweet pepper, made with cream cheese and Peppadew peppers, was inspired by the combination of cream cheese and hot pepper jelly.

"It's the classics. People love artichoke dip," Mitchell said. "Make it your own. Take a salsa and mix it with cream cheese."

Mitchell also recommended chopping up ingredients like pepperoni and olives and adding them to cream cheese for a creative dip flavor.

There's artichoke dip and hummus on the menu at The Draft, but Sanborn said most customers order sauces to use as dips. The



dill and ranch salad dressing gets paired with a plate of vegetables or the veggie nachos.

"Chipotle mayo makes a great dip," he said, adding that most diners pair it with nachos and quesadillas. "For me, a good artichoke dip has a lot to do with vegetable-to-cheese ratio, and specifically what types of cheese. … You get the smoothness of the artichoke and the cream, and you want some sort of bite into the flavor."

Huddle up with nachos

Nachos are a traditional game-day plate, and they're easy to make — as long as you have the right ingredients.

"Lots of cheese," Nadeau said when asked what makes a good plate of nachos. "We use a cheddar blend. Good melting cheese, that's the way to go."

"Fresh ingredients. If you have to twist or cut the top of a can off, it's not going to be as good," Sanborn said. He added that the thickness of a chip matters, too (he prefers a thin chip, which he makes in-house at The Draft).

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana in Concord also starts with its home-baked tortilla chips. Jonna Gaskell, a server at Hermanos for over 18 years, said the chicken and garlic nachos (not the classic traditional beef nachos) are the most popular.

To make the chicken and garlic nachos, Hermanos starts with its chips and adds a layer of chicken and jalapenos, then smothers it in a mix of Cabot Monterey Jack and cheddar cheeses grated in-house.

"It's like a softer texture but it makes the nacho chips crunchy," she said.

Lastly, the nachos are topped with Hermanos' signature garlic dressing.

Dynamite Wings

From Fan Fare: A Playbook of Great Recipes for Tailgating or Watching the Game at Home by Debbie Moose. *Serves four.*

8 habanero chiles, stemmed and seeded
4 cloves garlic
1 medium-size yellow onion, cut into quarters
¼ cup plus 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
½ teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
8 whole chicken wings, split at joints and wing tips discarded
Olive oil

Place the habaneros, garlic cloves and onion in a food processor and pulse to finely chop. Remove to a medium-size bowl and stir in the vinegar and salt. Cover and refrigerate overnight to let the flavors blend. Prepare a medium fire in a charcoal grill or preheat a gas grill. Rub the wings with olive oil and sprinkle them lightly with salt. Coat liberally on both sides with habanero mixture. Grill for 15 minutes, then turn, coat again with the mixture and grill for another 15 minutes. Do not use the habanero mixtures near the end of cooking.

Got farm-fresh milk?

Dairy farm offers weekly organic milk CSA

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



CSA members with Benedikt Dairy get to meet these lovely faces each week when they pick up farm-fresh, organic milk from the farm in Goffstown. Courtesy photo.

Meet Bianca, Casey, Chili, Pixie and Poppy. They are just a few of the Jersey cows in Max Blindow's herd at Benedikt Dairy in Goffstown.

The dairy farm provides a weekly milk CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. It's a little bit like a field trip when CSA members go to pick up their milk.

"We're really trying to keep it at the farm. People enjoy coming to the farm," Blindow said. "That's the best grocery."

There is more of an emphasis today on farm education, especially during a time when kids think that cheese or apples come from the grocery store instead of a local farm. And it's not just for kids, it's adults, too. Blindow shared that last year he had brought one of the calves to the Bedford Farmers Market and was surprised how many market-goers thought the brown Jersey calf was a baby deer, including the adults.

"It's a huge educational thing for people. Children point out the picture of the cows and think it's a horse, and don't know what it is because it's a brown cow, and not a black and white cow," Blindow said. "They're surprised that cows have to calf before they lactate."

Currently, Blindow has 16 100-percent Jersey cows on the dairy farm, with more on the way. A new milking room was completed in November, which will allow for more efficient production and includes a faster dishwasher and cooler for the milk.

Benedikt Dairy produces about 12 gallons of milk daily, but Blindow hopes that in February that number will rise to 20 or 30 gallons a day. His ideal would be to produce 30 to 40 gallons of milk per day, but Blindow said they're not there yet.

"Mostly I'd say over 90 percent of what we sell goes to those regular [CSA members]," Blindow said. "The cows get milked the same time every day, so we want to get as much milk out fresh as possible."

The milk is chilled overnight and bottled the next morning for pick-up. Benedikt Dairy's CSA members select a day they'd like to pick up their milk at the farm. When CSA members pick up their milk, it comes in chilled glass bottles, just like in the days of the milkman. The organic milk has a shelf life of about a week, Blindow said.

Benedikt Dairy

97 Shirley Hill Road, Goffstown
801-7056
benedictdairy.com
Interested in becoming a Milk CSA member with Benedikt Dairy? Buy a bottle to sample the milk before signing up.

The other benefit of the Milk CSA is that those interested in becoming members can sign up at any time (there's no quarterly period like with most produce-based CSA shares). Members can pick any day, but because the milk is then scheduled for pick-ups on different days, members pay in advance for a period of time for a guaranteed market for the milk (plus, milk shares are then guaranteed for the rest of that period).

"People want to know where their food comes from now," Blindow said. "That's where you know where you're milk's coming from. You know how your animals are treated."

What is organic milk, anyway?

There are national expectations for organic labeling. The national standards specify which chemicals or medications would still be allowed for organic production as well as animal and environmental welfare standards. Blindow generally doesn't feed his livestock grain, and if he has to use grain, it will be non-GMO grain, he said.

"With organic vegetables, you would assume your veggies aren't sprayed with pesticides," Blindow said. "You expect that from what the cow eats. … It's milk from a Jersey cow that only eats grass and hay."

With commodity milk, the milk is pooled from different farms, Blindow said. There's a disconnect between the consumer and where that product originated, but members of Benedikt Dairy's Milk CSA know where that bottle of milk came from and can meet the cows that produced that milk.

"People come and buy the milk because it's better than any other milk. It has a better consistency and better flavor," Blindow 49 ▶

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FOOD

Sweet T and more

Chilling out at the Pinardville java joint

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

Stop by the strip mall on Mast Road in Pinardville and you can head into a diner for comfort food or a cafe for a latte and a sinful sticky bun.

Tammy Beleski can be found in either eatery — she owns both The Bagg Lunch Diner and Sweet T's Pastry & Coffee Shoppe.

Beleski had been operating The Bagg Lunch Diner for about three years when she decided to open Sweet T's last July. Her specialty cakes were a side project at the diner, and Beleski realized she needed more space as they grew in popularity.

"[The cake business] kind of took on [a life of] its own, and I needed some more room," Beleski said.

The space in the strip mall opened up next-door, and Sweet T's became a reality.

Now, Sweet T's Pastry & Coffee Shoppe caters to a different clientele. The Bagg Lunch Diner offers homestyle cooking, with menu items like cheeseburgers and tuna melts, seafood and haddock dinner plates, stuffed peppers and breakfast offerings.

Over at Sweet T's, customers can sip on coffee and order a slice of cheesecake, a bagel, a salad or a cup of soup.

"We're definitely always experimenting and trying new things," Beleski said. "A cupcake is a cupcake, and they get boring. … People that come in ever day, they don't want to try a strawberry or raspberry danish every day."

New treats are always appearing on Sweet T's Facebook page: pink and purple chocolate-covered strawberries, a chocolate almond cheesecake, specialty ordered character birthday cakes, scones, meringues and coconut macaroons.

"We keep our staples, too," Beleski said. "Eclairs and cream puffs will always be there."

There's more than just sweet things to eat at Sweet T's, too, Beleski said. The menu offers snacks, a protein box with hard-boiled egg and grapes, panini sandwiches (like chicken chipotle or pesto), grab-and-go salads and soups like chicken wild rice and broccoli cheddar.

The most popular of the menu items are the maple pecan danish and whoopie pies, Beleski said.

"They have to be here or people get upset," she said.

Sweet T's serves Wicked Joe coffees, a Maine-based organic coffee company, with a variety of regular flavors and seasonal flavors, too.



Cream horns, eclairs, cupcakes plus savory treats can all be found at Sweet T's. Emelia Attridge photo.

Sweet T's Bakery and Coffee
679 Mast Road, Pinardville, 782-5446

For the specialty cakes, Beleski said that a lot of orders come from walk-in requests for birthday parties and other events.

"I get a lot of strange requests for cakes," she said.

She's made Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle cakes, *Adventure Time* cakes, Disney-inspired cakes (with an Ariel doll adorning a Little Mermaid tiered cake), cakes for baby showers and more.

In designing the cafe, Beleski said, she wanted to provide a relaxing space for local students to hang out or folks looking to work outside the office.

With free Wi-Fi, customers can pull up a seat next to the fireplace and surf the Web.

"I thought maybe it would be a cool hangout for them to get off campus," Beleski said about local Saint Anselm College students and high school students in the area. "We definitely have our regulars here when we open at 6 a.m. for their coffee. … We have a dance studio upstairs, so our dancers are always hanging out down here in between classes."

There's live music on the first Friday of the month, but Beleski said that she hopes to make Friday music nights a weekly occurrence.

"We really care about this place," she said. "We really are involved and care what everyone thinks about us. … We love any feedback and requests."

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH BRIAN MURRAY



New Hampshire native Brian Murray is the executive chef at the Homestead Restaurant & Tavern (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022, homesteadnh.com). He first began working at The Homestead in Londonderry in 1991, when he was in high school, as a dishwasher. He then went to culinary school at Johnson & Wales and continued to work at The Homestead during long weekends in college. While gaining experience in school, Murray continued to get promoted, working in every role from bussing to prep. He eventually became the executive chef at the Londonderry location; last April, he moved to the Merrimack Homestead. "I like the camaraderie — the staff, the interaction," Murray said. "And of course, I'm a foodie. I have a true passion for food."

What is your must-have kitchen item?

An open mind and willingness to learn on a daily basis, because this industry is ever-changing and evolving. Even as the seasons go by, and the years go by, it's always changing. Trends go in different directions. I think that's why it's important to have those attributes.

What would you choose for your last meal?

King crab leg. … I think it would be a toss-up between that and oysters on the half shell.

Favorite restaurant besides your own?

Right now, one of my favorite restaurants is Mint Bistro: excellent decor, well-rounded menu, awesome service, affordable and local.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?

That's easy: Alton Brown. Because he's an inspiration for me. I like science in general. I have a degree in science, basically that's what we're doing back there is food science. He has this kind of quirky unorthodox way of really explaining and dissecting what's going on with food.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

Local, organic and gluten-free. We take part in all three of those here at our restaurant. We get our fresh clams and seafood from Boston. We have a gluten-free menu.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

That's a tough question. People ask me that all the time, too. … I'm not traditional in the sense that I have a recipe deck at my house. I'm more of like a create-on-the-fly, what I got in the pantry. Here's one I got: I make this meat-lover's deep dish pizza that I've never gotten a complaint on. I make my own dough, and then I put the sauce down and then I put sausage down across the whole thing. Then I put whole-milk mozzarella and fresh mozzarella and pepperoni. It's almost like a meat pie you'd get down in the North End.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?

I would definitely have to again go with Alaskan king crab legs. It's a pound-and-quarter, extra large Alaskan king crab legs. They're flown in direct to us with drawn butter.

— Emelia Attridge

Crème Brûlée

From the kitchen of chef Brian Murray — "It captures what we have to offer at The Homestead," he said.

1 pint heavy cream
12 egg yolks
1 cup white sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla

In a heavy-bottomed pan, gradually heat cream until just about to boil, being careful not to boil over. While the cream is heating, whisk together the yolk, sugar and vanilla. Pour hot cream over egg mixture and whisk until well-incorporated. Whisk in vanilla and portion into brûlée dishes which have been placed in shallow hotel pans. Fill hotel pans with hot water halfway up the brûlée dishes and place into a 275-degree oven for 40 minutes or until just set. Be sure to calibrate your oven. Adjust for an oven that runs hot, cool or if attempting to use a convection oven.



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FOOD

Chill out

Ice bar returns, with penguins

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com



Bartenders mix drinks behind the ice during the 2013 Ice Bar at Bedford Village Inn. Courtesy photo.

For its fourth year, Bedford Village Inn General Manager Jon Carnevale thought penguins sculpted out of ice would be a good fit for the Stoli Elit Ice Bar.

"My father is a big fan of penguins. I thought he would like to have a bunch of penguins out in his courtyard," Carnevale said in a recent phone interview. "It's going to be a lot of ice."

About 20,000 pounds of ice, in fact. The ice is carved into three individual bars along with ice sculptures across the grounds and a photo op area featuring the carved penguins. Other features during the four-night Ice Bar event include ice luges and a bonfire, Carnevale said.

"It's just a lot of fun. You dress warm, you get outside and do something different," he said. "It's good to get outside at this point in New Hampshire."

This year, Stoli Elit will be served in various mixed drinks and five or six specialty martinis, Carnevale said.

"Vodka's been a natural choice for us, especially Stoli," he said. "These companies understand how it relates to their brand. … There's a lot of ice bars now. There's a lot of ice attractions all around the area. I think it's just because it's something so different. It happens for a very short period of time, [and] it's an opportunity to do something different and break out of the everyday."

In addition to the specialty martinis, there will be locally brewed craft beers from Woodstock Inn Brewing Company, wine and a small food area. There will be live entertainment each night, including a special performance from Josh Logan on Wednesday to kick off the rest of the week.

"It's bigger and bigger every year," Carnevale said. "It could be July in the restaurant and people are asking about it. … It's like an electric feel at the Bedford Village Inn around ice bar time. I suppose you could equate it to the day before Christmas for a little kid."

Guests are able to warm up inside at Corks, the Tavern and the dining room in case it gets too cold. Plus, each year there is a special VIP lounge. But when it comes to winter weather in New England, Carnevale said he can never know what to expect between blizzards and wild temperatures.

"Every year we run into an issue the first day," he said. "The last two years it's been mid-50s the day we put the ice out. When you have a significant investment in a perishable item like ice, it's very nerve-wracking to say the least."

Stoli Elit Ice Bar

When: Wednesday, Feb. 5, through Saturday, Feb. 8
Where: Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford)
Cost: $10 cover; drinks and food purchased with tokens (each token costs $3)
Visit: bedfordvillageinn.com

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Lectures/author events/ festivals/fairs

• **NOFA-NH WINTER CONFERENCE** Sat., Feb. 1, and Sun., Feb. 2, at Rundlett Middle School, 144 South St., Concord. See nofanh.org.

• **CHOCOLATE** Local chocolatiers, bakers and vineyards will be participating in a chocolate tasting tour on Mon., Feb. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Eisenhower Room at The Old Salt (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 926-8322, oldsaltnh.com). Tickets cost $15; a full cash bar will also be available.

• **FARM AND FOREST EXPO** Fri., Feb. 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester. Trade show with exhibitors, workshops, food, kids activities and networking. See nhfarmandforestexpo.org.

• **FIRE AND ICE FEST** Sat., Feb. 15, and Sun., Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. at Portsmouth Gas Light Co. (64 Market St., Portsmouth) with ice bars, fire pits, ice luges, wood fire grilled food and ice sculptures. Beverages from Southern Wine and Spirits and New Hampshire Distributors. See portsmouthchamber.org.

• **STARTUP NIGHT** at Leaven Beer and Bread House (44 Market St., Somersworth, 692-0157, leavennh.com) on Thursdays, Feb. 20, March 20 and April 17. Audience members participate in entrepreneurial game show to pitch ideas and collaborate.

Valentine's Day dinners

• **BEDFORD VILLAGE INN** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) on Fri., Feb. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m., with bottle of Champagne or wine, floral arrangements, greeting card enhancements. Reservations required.

• **DANCING LION CHOCOLATE** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) Sat., Feb. 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost $125 per person. Call to be added to waitlist.

• **CASK & VINE** (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com) on Fri., Feb. 14, reservations start at 4 p.m. Reservations required.

• **ROMANCING THE TAVERN** Wine and chocolate pair-

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 42

Indian Rock Road, Windham. Call 898-2442.

• **RSVP to treat your sweetie:** Restaurants are currently taking Valentine's Day dinner reservations, including Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com), Cask & Vine (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com), Copper Door (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com), and special dinners like the American Independence Museum's Romancing the Tavern event at Folsom Tavern (164 Water St., Exeter, 772-2622, independencemuseum.org) with a historic look at Valentine's Day or Zorvino Vineyards' five-course dinner with sparkling wine (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com). Know of other restaurants offering Valentine's Day specials? Email food@hippopress.com.

• **Winter markets this weekend:** Arctic chill can't stop these local markets. The Bedford Fields indoor winter market is meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 to 3 p.m. (331 Route 101, Bedford, bedfordfields.com). The Greenland market will be meeting Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rolling Green Nursery (64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland, rollinggreennursery.com). Check out the Milford market in the Town Hall auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1 Union Square, Milford, milfordnhfarmersmarket.com). Newmarket will hold its farmers market on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Newmarket High School (213 S. Main St., Newmarket, localharvest.org). And the Salem market will be on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Street Garden Center (37 Lake St., Salem, salemnhfarmersmarket.org). Though many winter markets meet on select days throughout the season, the following meet weekly: Concord (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road), Henniker (Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m. at the community center, 57 Main St.), Tilton (Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at AutorServ, 67 E. Main St.), Weare (Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m. at the old Town Hall, 16 N. Stark Hwy.).

43 said.

Blindow takes quality control seriously, adding that they taste the milk of every individual cow. "Because we're a small herd, we can pay attention to every individual animal," he said.

"The flavor of the milk varies according to what the cow eats," Blindow said. "In spring and early summer you'll find a lot of flavors from clover flowers and fresh grass. Now, there's a lot of hay, and we try to get hay with clover flowers in it. … We're not trying to get the most milk out of every cow; we're trying to get the best milk out of every cow."

In 2012, a Stanford study claimed that there was no greater nutritional benefit to organic foods, but this year, a Washington State University study examined 400 samples of organic and conventional milk and found a different result. The findings showed that organic whole milk had significantly higher omega-3 fatty acids than its conventional counterpart.

"If it's only grass [fed], the omega-3 will be much higher," Blindow said.

ings at the Folsom Tavern (164 Water St., Exeter, 772-2622, independencemuseum.org) on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., led by Kathleen Campbell from Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market. Also includes colonial Valentine's Day customs and era love letters. Cost $18 for non-members.

• **STAGES AT ONE WASHINGTON** (1 Washington St., Suite 325, Dover, 842-4077, stages-dining.com) Dinner on Fri., Feb. 14, and Sat., Feb. 15. Reservations required; visit OpenTable.com.

• **ZORVINO VINEYARDS** (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com) on Fri., Feb. 14. Five-course menu with sparkling wine. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost $65.

Chef events/special meals

• **YEAR OF THE HORSE** Fri., Jan. 31, from 4 to 8 p.m. at White Heron Tea (601 Islington St., Portsmouth, 501-6266, whiteherontea.com). Free event celebrates Chinese New Year with artwork, traditional bazaar.

• **SUPERBOWL SUNDAY** at Cask & Vine (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com) at 6 p.m. with beef and bean chili, Buffalo bleu cheese chicken salad finger sandwiches, pretzels with stout mustard, kielbasa and beer menu. Cost $15. See caskandvine.com/football.

• **STORM SURGE** Cocktail reception, dinner and seminar on the subject of climate change, storms and how they affect the seacoast on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. at the Seacoast Science Center (570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org). Tickets cost $60, and reservations must be made by Sat., Feb. 1. Call Ashley at 436-8043, ext. 14.

• **PRESIDENTIAL FEAST** Hearthside dinner at the Remick Museum and Farm (58 Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth, 323-8382, remickmuseum.org) on Sat., Feb. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Menu includes roasted ham with molasses sauce, trout fritters, corn pudding, fresh churned butter on corn, minted fruit cordial and Woodbury cake with spiced whipped cream. Cost $40. Call 323-7591 to make a reservation. Reservations required.

• **WINTER NIGHT AT PITT TAVERN** Sat., Feb. 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Strawbery Banke Museum (14 Hancock St., Portsmouth, 433-1100, strawberybanke.org) celebrates President's Day weekend like George Washington in 1789 with live acoustic music, beer from Portsmouth Brewing Co. and tavern food from The White Apron Cafe at Strawbery Banke. Tickets cost $22.50.

Church/charity meals

• **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** Sundays from 8 to 11 a.m. at Philbrick-Clement Post 65 American Legion (12 N. Stark Highway, Weare, 529-2722, nhpost65.us). A la carte breakfast menu benefits the Legion and community outreach. Cost









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COOKBOOK THROWDOWN

By Amy Diaz



Picture Cook
by Katie Shelly (2013, Ulysses Press)

VS



The Can't Cook Book
by Jessica Seinfeld (2013, Atria Books)

The goal: To pit two vaguely related cookbooks against each other and arbitrarily declare a champion.

Why: Both books are aimed at getting cooking-phobes and cooking-novices into the kitchen.

Battleground:

CHILI

Picture Cook

The cookbook: "More pictures than words" is probably the easiest way to describe this book. It is the cookbook answer to graphic novels. A one-page recipe will feature a strip at the bottom that has illustrations accompanying a list of ingredients. The rest of the page features a kind of flow-chart/cartoon hybrid that shows you what to add when, how long to let it cook, how much heat to cook it over and how to plate and serve it. The book also offers step-by-step drawings for techniques such as dicing vegetables or mincing garlic. More elaborate recipes get a two-page spread that explains, for example, how to make fried rice in four different cartoons (plus a separate one for toasting nuts). Other spreads offer ideas for variations on foods like pizza or tacos ("Thoughts on Tacos" shows you how to assemble eight different tacos, from a traditional shredded pork variety to versions with kimchi or fried sweet plantains). Demonstration replaces discussion in this book and the result is a much speedier understanding of the recipe.

The recipe: "Spicy chili" page 32.

The Can't Cook Book

The cookbook: Jessica "Mrs. Jerry" Seinfeld first gained fame (cookbook-wise) for her *Deceptively Delicious* cookbook that was all about healthy-ing up foods your kids like (adding veg to mac & cheese, for example). Here, she walks it back even further and teaches you the basics (chopping an onion, scrambling eggs) that can help make you competent enough in the kitchen to tackle recipes like "Sweet Pea & Onion Frittata," "Herb-Roasted Beef with Potatoes & Carrots" and "Pesto Pasta." The recipes include not just a list of ingredients but a list of tools needed and a list of skills needed so that, before you make, say, "Bread Crumb Bass" you can go back and refresh your memory on how to slice a shallot and check when fish is done. Every recipe gets photos and some get fold-out pages that walk you through techniques step by step.

The recipe: "Your First Chili" page 97.

The result: It truly does not get easier than this. Both books walk you through their respective chilis with careful, detailed instruction (via either images or words) of how to get from ground beef and canned beans to warm-you-from-the-inside dinner. There is no guesswork here — which is nice for the new cook but also comforting for the practiced cook. I never found myself wondering if this is what it was supposed to look like or if I was cooking something the right amount.

The winner

PICTURE COOK

Both chilis were solid — warming and tasty on the first day and good as leftovers. The veggie chili of *Picture Cook* was a little more exciting, flavor-wise, but Seinfeld's "Your First Chili" had a nice heat and seemed made to pair with tortilla chips and cheese dip (perhaps as game-day food). And both books did a solid job of explaining recipes in a way that practiced cooks could still learn something from and new cooks could hang on to while gaining confidence. With its step-by-step images walking you through a dish, though, *Cook* makes cooking feel like a foreign language that you suddenly understand with enough fluency to get by. It is as close as you can get to watching a practiced cook make dinner for you live in your kitchen.

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FOOD

PERISHABLES

Tasty food from fresh ingredients

Pizza dough



What do you do when the "real feel" outside is -15 degrees and going outside to the grocery store makes you want to crawl under your bed and hibernate until April? When you want to eat fresh, real food but getting to the market seems way too hard? My advice: make pizza dough! Chances are, you already have everything in your pantry to make this versatile dough for dinner tonight so you can settle in and skip the sub-zero temps.

Pizza dough is obviously great for pizza, but today, I'm offering up a recipe for calzones. What's more cozy than a warm, crusty pocket filled with cheese and other deliciousness? This is the kind of winter food I'm craving right now — the kind that heats everything up from your oven to your insides.

Plus, this really is a dish that takes little effort yet will bring your whole family to the table. — *Allison Willson Dudas*

Calzones

Pizza Dough
(Makes enough dough for 2 large calzones — split if you like)

3 cups all-purpose flour (I like to use whole wheat)
1 packet active dry yeast (.25 ounces)
2 tablespoon olive oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon white sugar
1 cup warm water (you may need a little more if dough gets dry)

Combine everything but the water, mixing with a hand mixer (or use a food processor or other tools to make this easier). Once mixed, add the water. Knead dough until firm over lightly floured surface, adding a little water at a time if it seems dry. Extra dough can be frozen in tightly sealed plastic bags if packed as large balls brushed with olive oil.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees (if you have a pizza stone, put it in the oven to preheat, too). To make your calzone, roll out pizza dough into a large circle (you can also divide dough to make smaller calzones). Place toppings on one side of dough and then fold over the dough, sealing with a fork along the seam. Brush calzone with olive oil and make a few slits in the top so it can "breathe." Bake for 10-15 minutes on top of pizza stone or greased cookie sheet until golden brown.

Ideas for Calzone Fixings
Mushrooms and onions sautéed in olive oil and garlic
Thick pepperoni slices with green pepper slices

Use mozzarella, cheddar and maybe even a little ricotta cheese for your filling. Add tomato sauce to the inside of your calzone or leave it out and use it as a dip once it's baked.

ranges from $3.50 to $7.

• **COMMUNITY SUPPER** Held the third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford at 20 Elm St. See uucm.org.

• **POTTER'S BOWL** Fri., Jan. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Promises to Keep (Route 28, Derry). Fundraiser for Community Caregivers with handmade bowls and soups from local restaurants. Tickets cost $35. Call 432-0877 or visit comcaregivers.org.

• **PANCAKE PALOOZA** Sun., Feb. 2, from 7 to 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at Souhegan High School (412 Boston Post Road, Amherst). Pancake breakfast fundraiser with NH maple syrup taste-off. See teamearley.org.

• **PELHAM LIBRARY GALA** Fri., Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham). The theme is Around the World in Eighty Days and includes global dishes from local restaurants. Tickets cost $15, and can be purchased at the library. Call 635-7581 or visit pelhampubliclibrary.org.

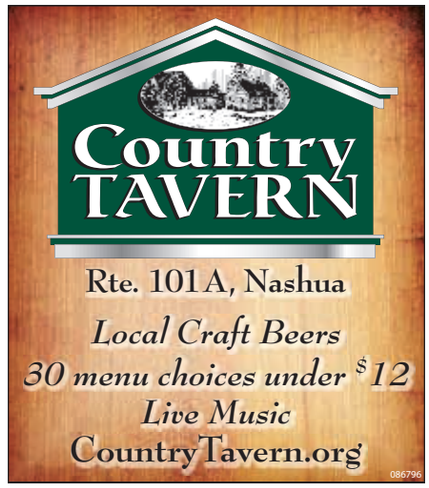
• **FIRE AND ICE FEST CHARITY NIGHT** Fri., Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at Portsmouth Gas Light Co. (64 Market St., Portsmouth). Proceeds benefit Pro Portsmouth, Strawbery Banke and Seacoast Repertory Theater. Includes ice bars, fire pits, ice luges, wood fire grilled food and ice sculptures. Beverages from Southern Wine and Spirits and New Hampshire Distributors. See portsmouthchamber.org.

• **BREAKFAST BUFFET** Love Your Neighbor will host a Valentine's Day buffet at the Puritan Backroom (245 Hooksett Road, Manchester) on Sat., Feb. 15, from 9 to 11 a.m. Suggested donation $10 per ticket. Email kmakinen@partnersforcommunity.org to order a ticket or call 622-8199.

• **LADIES' TEA** Sat., Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church (335 Smyth Road, Manchester) for a Valentine's mother, daughter, granddaughter and friends celebration and presentation of *Downton Abbey* with tea. Admission costs $5, and children under 12 receive free admission. Call Sandy Baines at 623-6053 or Joan Wood at 668-5613 before Fri., Feb. 7.

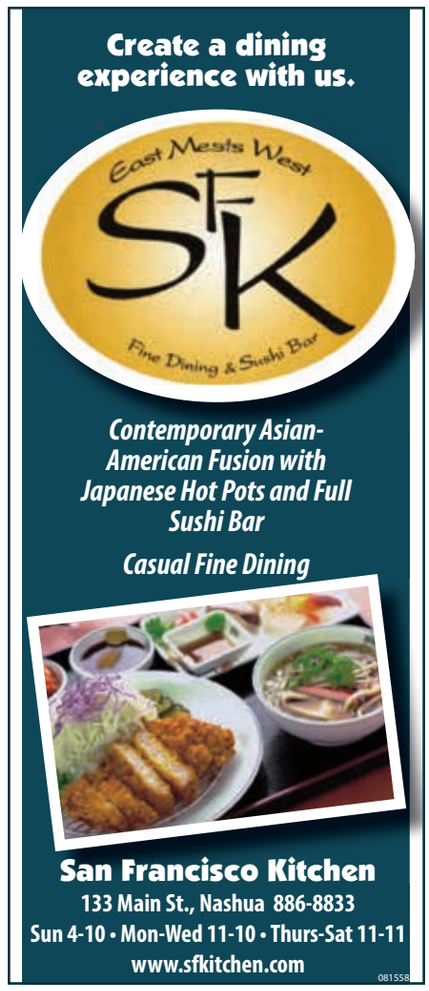
• **PORK ROAST SUPPER** Sat., Feb. 15, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Arlington Street United Methodist Church (63 Arlington











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FOOD FROM THE PANTRY
Ideas from off the shelf

Baked pasta



After the holidays my kitchen and my wallet are burnt out. Add a slew of birthday dinner parties into the season, and I want to stay as far away from my kitchen as possible from mid-January until spring. To top it off, going to the grocery store becomes more of a chore, especially on a shoestring budget.

This recipe for "baked" four-cheese pasta, however, was simple, hearty and inexpensive once I filtered through what I had in my pantry. Plus, it only took a few minutes to prepare — making dinner at least one night this week wasn't such a struggle.

There are seemingly a million combinations of meat, pasta and sauce that you can create to make a meal. I typically stick with what I would consider the most popular/basic: marinara, pesto and alfredo. I've been making marinara sauce from a family recipe for as long as I can remember. For pesto and alfredo I'll experiment with different recipes or keep a jar/mix on hand in the pantry for quick-fix dinners. Fortunately for my lazy winter self, I keep a Tupperware container filled with homemade marinara in the freezer for when I find a recipe like this baked pasta.

With pasta sauce and uncooked pasta on hand, I ran to the grocery store to pick up the sausage, veggies and cheese. I opted to use just the onion this time around, as neither my husband nor I care for cooked peppers.

Depending on price, sausage may be less expensive ground than in links, and either would work for this recipe. I opted for links and got a mix of hot and sweet sausage to beef up the casserole since I omitted the peppers.

Prepping this dish was incredibly simple, and the finished product was more flavorful than anticipated. Baking the dish for a few minutes really helped seal in the flavors and added a nice crunch to some of the top pieces of pasta that poked through the melted cheese. If you want more of a crunchy crust on your pasta, try mixing together an egg and Parmesan cheese in a separate bowl. Once mixed, drizzle evenly over the casserole before sticking in the oven. The egg and cheese mixture will form a crust over the pasta and add another flavor element.

I think that next time, making a similar dish with alfredo and shrimp or pesto and chicken would work just as well, and I'll be adding this recipe to my list of hearty, simple meals that can be made in a pinch without spending too much money. The best part about a lot of pasta dishes like this is that it's easy to adjust the recipe to your tastes or to how many people you're cooking for. Omitting the peppers but adding more sausage helped create a dish that both my husband and I enjoyed, plus we had leftovers for lunch the next day. Add a side salad or some fresh veggies and you've got a simple, delicious meal in minutes.

— Lauren Mifsud

Skillet Four-Cheese Baked Pasta
Courtesy of Family Circle

1 pound rotini pasta or penne
¾ pound hot Italian sausage
2 sweet red peppers
1 onion
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 jar (26 ounces) marinara sauce
2 cups shredded Italian four-cheese blend

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain. While the pasta is cooking, cut the sausage into ½-inch slices, seed and slice the peppers, and slice the onion. Heat olive oil in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add sausage, peppers and onions. Cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until pepper and onions are tender and the sausage is cooked through. Add sauce and bring to a simmer. Stir in the pasta and 1 cup of cheese. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the pasta and bake for about 8 minutes, or until the cheese melts and the casserole starts to bubble. Cool about 5 minutes before serving.

St., Nashua, 882-4663, asumc.net). Admission costs $10, $9 for seniors, $6 for children, free for kids under 5. St. Joseph's Hospital also sponsors blood-pressure checks during the dinner.

• **BIG PAPA'S HOT COCOA STAND** Fundraiser for Alzheimer's on Sun., Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 62 Ferry St., Hudson. Visit facebook.com/BigPapasStand.

• **EMPTY BOWLS** Wed., Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Nashua High School South (36 Riverside St., Nashua) benefits Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter with over 700 stoneware bowls handmade by students, faculty and community members with soups to choose from. Cost $15. See nsks.org.

Food classes/workshops

• **GOURMET VEGAN COOKING CLASS** Mon., Feb. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Concord High School (170 Warren St., Concord). Tuition costs $29 per class, food cost is $14 per

JUST DESSERTS
Recipes for the sweet tooth

Raisins



Why should we eat raisins? Well, the Bible says so, for one. "A hundred bundles of raisins" make an appearance in both Samuel I and II. And they are well-traveled — raisins were among the rations packed aboard the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, and they have been to outer space with American astronauts, according to raisin producer Sun-Maid.

If you're looking for more practical reasons, there are a few of those as well. For one, they taste good, the essence of delicious grapes concentrated into a tiny package. Very concentrated, in fact; it takes 4½ pounds of grapes to produce 1 pound of raisins, Sun-Maid reports. Raisins are also chock-full of antioxidants, according to the website of the California Raisin industry.

More importantly to me, raisins are also a versatile dessert ingredient. They add pops of juicy sweetness to bread pudding, they pair with rum in sauces and ice creams, and they enhance apple pies and crisps.

Of course, the most traditional of all raisin-based desserts is the oatmeal raisin cookie. This recipe gets this beloved classic addictively right. These oversized cookies are loaded with chewy oats, laced with warm spices and studded with chewy raisins. Just be careful about making them in the afternoon; if you're not careful, you might find yourself ruining your dinner. Enjoy. — *Sarah Shemkus*

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Adapted but slightly from The Cook's Illustrated Cookbook

1½ cup flour
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg (preferably fresh ground)
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1½ cups raisins

Place oven racks in top and bottom thirds of oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Line two large cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Sift flour, baking powder, salt and spices together into a medium mixing bowl.

Using a stand or electric mixer, beat butter and sugars together until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, mixing until combined.

At low speed, mix in flour mixture a little at a time until thoroughly blended. Mix in oats and raisins until just incorporated. By hand, stir a couple more times to evenly distribute oats and raisins.

Roll dough into large balls — about 2 tablespoons of dough each — and place on prepared sheets about 2 inches apart. Bake for 22 to 25 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through.

Let cookies set on sheets for a couple of minutes, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

class. Pre-registration required. Call 225-0804, or visit Concord Community Education at classesforlife.com.

• **COOKING CONFIDENTIAL** Cooking classes at Colby Hill Inn (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) include an evening with the chef, hands-on cooking instruction, followed by a three-course dinner with wine on select Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Classes cost $125, and are held on Feb. 10, March 3, March 31, and April 14. Advanced registration required.

• **COOKING INDIAN CUISINE** Bedford Community Enrichment cooking class meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bedford High School (47 Nashua Road, Bedford) on Wed., Feb. 12, and Wed., March 12. Tuition costs $39 per class, plus an additional $10 supply fee per class. Visit sau25.net.

• **DATE NIGHT COOKING CLASSES** at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, forkidswhocook.com) cost $150 per couple on select Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. Upcoming classes include Romantic Recipes (Fri., Feb. 14) and St. Patty's Day (Fri., March 14).

Kids cooking classes/ workshops

• **SUPER BOWL SNACKS WITH DAD** Sun., Feb. 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, forkidswhocook.com). Fathers and children are invited to make buffalo chicken dip, mini manicotti and spicy cashews with Chef Philly. Cost $55 for a father and child (ages 7 and up) team.

• **COOKING CLUB** Teen cooking group meets on Tuesdays, Feb. 4, and Feb. 18, from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org).

• **STRAWBERRY SWEETHEART SCONES** Fri., Feb. 14, at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, forkidswhocook.com). Kids will prepare strawberry scones, cost $16 per child.







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FOOD

Brewing in the 603

Local craft beers are all about New Hampshire

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com



When you name your brewery after New Hampshire's area code, you really establish yourself as a Granite State brewery, so it's only fitting that the 603 Brewery captures the spirit of New Hampshire as well. A friend and I recently stopped in at its new Londonderry site and were warmly welcomed by everyone at the brewery as we stepped up to the counter for tastings.

After learning more about the brewery, it is clear that what you see today is the result of hard work and a leap of faith. The idea of the 603 Brewery started years ago with three college friends. Geoff and Tamsin Hewes, before they were married, along with their friend Dan Leonard, met in college at UMass Dartmouth where they were studying engineering.

They had home brewed before and tossed around the idea of a brewery, but it wasn't until after college when they were in different careers that the idea of the brewery returned.

"We talked about it and decided, let's get together and make this happen," Geoff said.

They opened the brewery in late 2012 at a location in Campton but outgrew that space and relocated to Londonderry. The new location opened in November 2013 and Geoff said they have already received a lot of support from the local community.

Leonard is the brewery's head brewer. Geoff is the general manager. Tamsin handles marketing and merchandising, nicely arranging an array of items for sale in the brewery's new location. The new space allows for a nice tasting area, complete with popcorn and draft beer, plus more room for increased brewing capacity. The 603 Brewery is now supplying kegs to area restaurants and bars. Also available are growlers, 22-ounce bottles, "603 Beer Gear," tastings and tours.

Geoff gave us a tour of the space, noting where the base and specialty malts are stored in an area overlooking the brewery floor, and talked about the brewing process, from the milling machine and mash tun to the boil kettle and fermenter. I do not know a lot about the beer brewing process, so I always enjoy hearing about it and learning something new.

While Geoff said the brewery just entered the keg market, they had been selling exclusively in bottles until moving to Londonderry.

Locally, their beers are available at Bert's Better Beers in Hooksett, Candia Road Convenience in Manchester and the Beer Store in Nashua, among other locations around the state. They just added draft beer at Cask n' Vine and Halligan Tavern in Derry and hope to add more locations soon.

The day we visited the brewery, we each ordered a tasting flight. For $10, we got a nice 603 Brewery pint glass to take home and five 4-ounce beer samples. They were also running a stout challenge, so we had the chance to try three stouts and vote on our favorite. The stout with the most votes will become a new 603 Brewery brand for release in a month or so.

The beer samples came on a handy placemat with a description for each. It was recommended that we move from top to bottom, or lightest to heaviest beer. These included 18 Mile Ale, Winni Ale, White Peaks, Cogway IPA and 9th State — all names inspired by the Granite State.

My favorite "craft on draft" (this happens to be the brewery's slogan) was the White Peaks, a light-bodied India pale ale that was crisp and refreshing as described. This beer pairs well with beef, lamb, spicy foods, and mild blue cheese.

I also enjoyed the 18 Mile Ale, a rye pale ale named after the length of New Hampshire's coastline. This beer is also on the lighter side, with some crispness from rye malt.

While I am a lighter beer fan, my friend enjoyed the weightier beers like the 9th State, a red India pale ale with bolder, hoppier flavors and some citrus notes. The Cogway Ale is a medium-bodied India pale ale with some malty sweetness and floral aromas. Finally, the Winni Ale is an amber ale that is nicely balanced with some hoppy character.

We had a great time at 603 Brewery, enjoyed the beer and hospitality and will definitely return. Head down and check out the new location for yourself at 12 Liberty Drive, Unit 7, in Londonderry. The tasting room is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Visit 603brewery.com.

DRINK

RED, WHITE &GREEN

Bottles for the budget-conscious wine-lover





This week, it's a vertical tasting!

Generally speaking, a vertical tasting features the same wine (same winery, same varietal) from different vintages. This is a fun way to learn more about a wine and a grape varietal: what stays the same from year to year, what is different, and which of the differences have to do with the grape crop from the particular year and which have to do with the way the wine itself changes as it ages?

A vertical tasting can require a bit of work — setting aside wines you like and making a note of buying future vintages. Admittedly, this is more forethought than most of us put in to wine consumption ("What will go well with dinner tomorrow night?" is often as far in advance as we think when purchasing wine). Occasionally, though, you can luck into finding two bottles of the same wine from different vintages at the store. We spotted two bottles of **Hobo Zinfandel** from Dry Creek Valley in Sonoma County at an area store — 2009 and 2011. We decided to see how these two vintages compared to each other. (Each cost $22.59, which is a little over our usual limit, but we splurged for this experiment.)

The 2009 and 2011 had some interesting differences apparent even before we opened the bottle. The 2009 was 14.4 percent alcohol by volume; the 2011 was 13.6 percent. In color, the 2011 was lighter, with the 2009 a dark, slightly dusky cherry red. We got "darker" aromas from the 2009 as well: It had a nose of blackberry and a hint of cocoa while the 2011 had brighter cherry and raspberry aromas and a hint of cedar. When we first opened the wines, both (but in particular the 2011) were tight, with flavors that developed more the longer the wine bottles were open (helped along by an aerator we stuck in the bottle). As it developed, the cherry flavors (with a slight smokiness or something that one of us identified as "a hint of bacon") and jamminess of the 2011 came out. The wine was dry but flavorful and was at its best with food.

The 2009 was also at its best with food, though, truth be told, even on subsequent days it never became as tasty or as enjoyable to drink as the 2011. Though it retained some blackberry flavors, the 2009 was smoother than the 2011 — smoother and a bit flatter with a hint of mustiness, qualities that indicated it might be past its prime. Though it was OK with food, that particular bottle was not a wine we'd necessarily go back to.

So what did we learn? The one thing thing we can say for certain: When in doubt, aerate. We were skeptical about both bottles initially but the use of an aerator (and time) really helped the 2011 develop into a solid glass of wine. We're also pretty sure that four years was probably too long to wait for this particular zinfandel. We say "probably" because we've found most wines, regardless of varietal, priced at $25 or less don't need aging. Lastly, alcohol content can make a difference. "Hotter" (higher in alcohol content) wines are not always better.

Having said that (and, by way of explaining why we're not saying where we bought these wines), this particular bottle is not necessarily representative of all 2009 Hobo zins. Improper storage (too much light, wide variations in temperature) could have changed the wine in this bottle in a way that we might not find in other bottles. And while you could say this about all wines of any age, the longer a wine sits on the shelf, the more that can happen to it.

Regardless of the outcome, the two vintages of the same wine were a fun find and trying them was a neat wine-drinking experiment. As we celebrate New Hampshire's wine week, we suggest, above all, that you have fun and take any opportunity to findnew and tasty drinks to enjoy with food and good company.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than $20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet.

Drink

Beer/wine/liquor tastings

• **NARRAGANSETT** tasting on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.

• **SMUTTYNOSE** tasting on Tue., Feb. 4, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bert's Better Beers, 1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 413-5992, bertsbetterbeers.com.

Beer/wine festivals and special events

• **9TH ANNUAL NH WINE WEEK** runs through Sun., Feb. 2, with the Winter Wine Spectacular on Thurs., Jan. 30, in-store wine tastings at NH Liquor and Wine Outlet locations, educational seminars, bottle signings, wine dinners and more. Visit nhwineweek.com for a full schedule of events.

• **WINTER WINE FESTIVAL** Through Sun., Feb. 16, at Wentworth by the Sea (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, winterwinefestival.com), with wine dinners, Sunday brunches, flights and other special events throughout the festival. See winterwinefestival.com for a full schedule of events.











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Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, e-mail Kelly Sennott at ksennott@hippopress.com. To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

Against Me! *Transgender Dysphoria Blues* (Total Treble Records)



As a male singer, Tom Gabel sounded like a cross between Serj Tankian and the guy from Quiet Riot, and that hasn't changed for now, since he's barely started the transgendering process. Now that he (well, she, to be neopolitically correct) has officially come out as Laura Jane Grace, she can still wail on any fake-punk band's singer, even if some all-ages purists were none too pleased that her Florida band was once signed to Sire Records, and furthermore, there are no songs about breaking an ankle on your skateboard or barfing up a gallon of Red Bull, so does any of it count?

Sure it does. The album-opening title track is banshee-screeched testament to why you kids need some rawness in your lives, and "Drinking With the Jocks," the LP's first oi-along speed-burner, removes all the "post" from the album's preceding post-punk, smacking of Black Flag with every whomp. "Two Coffins" is awesome in its acoustic-strumming way, a haunting tangent that reveals there really is a woman underneath all the snotty reveling in expanding the confusion over her confusion. **A-** *— Eric W. Saeger*

Aesthetic Perfection, *'til Death* (Metropolis Records)



One-man Los Angeles-based goth-dance act that's been in business since 2005. Of late, Daniel Graves has kept his ear glued to the subsurface of whatever you want to call it — the "general evil scene," I suppose, encompassing goth and thrash, which has to be the explanation for his decision to throw in a few lines sung in a gargle-monster voice, obviously meant to accentuate his otherwise ubiquitous baritone croon, a mix of Depeche Mode and bored-eurotrasher-trying-to-play-3DS-in-peace. Juxtaposed with these genre contrivances is out-and-out boyband fluff, often sung in clipped hormonal emoticons, such as on "Lights Out (Ready to Go)," a tune that'd be utterly disposable if it weren't so annoyingly here-and-now, with its wormy techno beat and lyrics that would get Wham's seal of approval. Same goes for "Death Rattle," an evocation of Backstreet Boys dressed for Halloween, decorated with some chick warbling a few Britney/Ke$ha oh-oh-ohs and more of Graves's own gargle-monster nonsense. Before I forget, no, nothing's particularly catchy here, but there's arguably some non-bad stuff, even if One Direction could probably squash the whole thing with one lawsuit. **A-** *— Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• The more repressed among you scenesters are aware of **Bombay Bicycle Club**, which is not Tokyo Police Club with a new name, in case you're not a repressed scenester and are only reading this because the only other reading material in your dentist's waiting room is a copy of People magazine that's so old there's a hot new interview with Fonzie in it. This UK band has tried their hand at folkie stuff and Manchester Orchestra indie, but on their new album, *So Long See You Tomorrow*, they try a really twee version of Animal Collective on for size to see if people will like it. One of the songs is called "It's Alright Now," and it sort of sounds like a ripoff of Frankie Avalon's "Venus," but wimpier, if that's even possible (spoiler: It actually is).

• Rambling San Fran folk-mumbler **Sun Kil Moon** releases a new album Tuesday, *Benji*. One of his weird new songs is "Richard Ramirez Died Today of Natural Causes," and in this song he babbles and mumbles about famous dead people, including James Gandolfini, implying that it's weird and ironic that people die, even when they're sometimes the same age as people you know, and isn't everything weird and ironic, when you think about it? How do people stand all this weird irony without going insane and writing idiotic mumbling freak-folk songs? Someone from Sonic Youth helped out on this album, by the way, and there's another song on there, "Ben's My Friend," which is about being friends with Ben Gibbard. Pitchfork pronounces this song "hilarious," meaning anyone who isn't a Pitchfork writer will politely pretend to laugh at the weirdly ironic lyrics and promptly forget about them and start thinking deeply about cheese-flavored snacks.

• It appears everything's going to be weird today, as the second album from **CEO**, a.k.a. ex-Tough Alliance weirdo Eric Berglund, is coming on Tuesday. The album is titled *Wonderland*, and the title song mixes babbling toddler samples with hip-hop noises and a disturbing eurotrash kiddie-synth beat. I can't stand it at all, but caveat emptor, as I was once believed to have been wrong about something, which was, of course, a bald-faced lie by someone who was desperately grasping at straws.

• **Les Claypool's Duo de Twang** is yet another project from the famous pot-smoking bassplayer of Primus. *Four Foot Shack* is the title of the album, and it will be out next week. Primus fans don't really have to waste their time pretending to appreciate this series of weird songs, as there will be a new Primus album out later this year. I'd love to preview one of these songs for you, but this week I've pretty much had my fill of self-indulgent in-joke bizarreness from rock stars who should just, you know, knock it off already. *— Eric W. Saeger*


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GAMER REVIEWS

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag

(PS3/360/PS4/XBONE/PC/WiiU)

Ubisoft Montreal

Sail the seas looting booty, firing sail-borne artillery and assassinating 18th-century fops as you pirate your way from Nassau to … wait Montreal, Quebec? What the heck is going on in *Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag*?

After the first hour or so of *AC4*, one thing is abundantly clear: Ubisoft managed to pull the Assassin's franchise out of the nose-dive of *AC3*. It is such a strong revamp of the series (lone killing machine sneaks around ancient cities killing folks) that *AC4* even cops to its former inadequacy in the game's narrative. Abstergo, the fictional company that bought out a certain French game maker after an exceptionally disappointing sequel, is using the genetic material of series cipher Desmond Miles to mine his ancestors' memories. Ostensibly it is to make totally rad Augmented Reality video games, of which you are a playtester (cue *Inception* horn), but really they are trying to find an ancient alien spy-tool that would make the NSA drool.

But who cares? What *AC4* really is is the story of Edward Kenway, a dashing "privateer" who beats one of the titular assassins to death and assumes his identity. As Kenway, you are embroiled in the whole Assassin's vs. Templar nonsense plot but that is almost an afterthought to the stupid joy of playing Grand Theft Pirate. And make no mistake — that is what AC4 is. Yes, you sneak about rooftops and silently pounce on soldiers and embed your signature hidden blades into their faces. And you will definitely spend some time trailing an assassination target through a busy Havana to eavesdrop on his nefarious schemes before quietly sticking a pointy object into and through his face. But let's not harp on the well-worn tropes of the franchise.

When *Black Flag* breaks away from its predecessors and puts Edward about his ship, the *Jackdaw*, it is a refreshing change of pace. The ability to gallivant about the ocean, capturing ships, whaling, assaulting fortresses, searching for buried treasure and whaling some more, underlines what makes the simulated freedom of sandbox games so liberating. Kenway's ship is an extension of the player and controls with an excellent balance of responsiveness and restraint. Because it's a giant hulk of wood, canvas and cannon, it's not burning donuts in the parking lot, but your ability to gracefully outmaneuver opposing vessels and unleash fusillade, cannonades and other synonyms for "shoot all the guns" are more arcade than simulation.

It is joyous to roundly broadside a foe, far more so than it is to pop out of *another* haystack to stab *another* dignitary in his face. *Assassin's Creed IV* is easily the best *AC* game since *Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood* and the best pirate game since the original *Sid Meier Pirates!* from 1987. Its flaws are largely holdovers from the franchise: a bloated, silly plot, one too many escort missions. The biggest misstep made is forcing you back into the present day at the end of the narrative to move forward the "who cares" meta-plot. Think about it: You are playing a game that is not fun in which you play a game that is super fun; that is some how extra punishment every time you have to snoop around the modern office of the nefarious software company. Still, on balance *Assassin's Creed 4: Black Flag* is a solid "Ahoy, Thar She Doesn't Blow!" **A-** — *Glenn Given*

Glenn is a writer, designer and game maker. You can find more of his reviews at gamesbyplaydate.com



Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag









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POP

The day that made Frost

Derry historian says it's when he nailed the Pinkerton job

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



Derry historian Rick Holmes presents a program, "The Day That Made Robert Frost." Courtesy image.

Derry historian Rick Holmes is the kind of guy who, when he sees an old, yellowing photograph, tries to find out what's going on.

It's part of why his latest endeavor — a book about Robert Frost's life in Derry from 1900 to 1911 — is so thrilling. These are the years, Holmes said, that Frost enthusiasts call the mystery years. They acknowledge them as the most important in his literary development, but most biographers run through them pretty quickly because there's so little information about them. But Holmes, a Vietnam vet who's lived in Derry since his return from the war, knows where to look.

"I know where the nooks and crannies are. I know where the information lies," he said.

Indeed, Holmes, who says he has at least 30 books on his shelf at home about Frost, generated a $500 fee from the Derry Public Library after having spent a year looking at old census records and Derry News articles. Most recently, he's been reading old records from Pinkerton Academy, which included letters from about 60 of Frost's former students. He also went to Dartmouth, where Holmes said there are files that, until now, have hardly been sorted through.

He's nearly finished the first draft of the book and hasn't contacted a publisher yet (he wrote seven others, some of which were done by History Press and Peter E. Randall Publisher), but you can get a glimpse of what his book will be like at a Derry Public Library on Monday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m. His presentation focuses on one day in Frost's life.

"I think we can all look at our own personal history and find that there's one day which changed our lives forever," Holmes said.

For Frost, it was March 2, 1906, the day he got a job as a teacher at Pinkerton Academy.

Local award-winning poet Robert Crawford will assist in this event. In addition to Holmes's lecture, there will be a reading of Frost's "The Tuft of Flowers," both the original draft that got Frost the job at Pinkerton and the more widely known version.

Holmes said that Frost getting the teaching job was of extreme consequence.

"In absence of that, he might have stayed a chicken farmer or worked in the shoe factory. A chain of events followed because he got the job at Pinkerton in 1906," Holmes said. "In two years, the state superintendent of schools recognized him as the best teacher in New Hampshire. He became known throughout the state. Because of this, he got a teaching position at Plymouth State. Because of his job at Plymouth, he was able to save enough money to take his family to England, which is where he published his first book."

Within two years of this, he became internationally known.

It might at first seem dramatic to say that an English teaching job catapulted into Frost's becoming one of the world's most prolific poets and earning four Pulitzer Prizes, but it is, Holmes said, because until that point Frost was considered a 30-year-old failure.

Frost, who was born in California and grew up in Lawrence under the patronage of his grandfather, attended Dartmouth College for two months before dropping out and returning home. After working some odd jobs, he married, went to back to school — Harvard this time — and again dropped out.

A few years later, his grandfather purchased Frost and his wife a farm in Derry, and Frost became a farmer, spending early mornings writing. Financially, things weren't great.

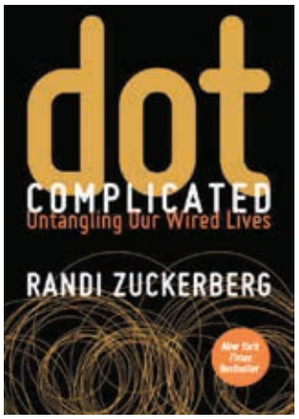
"He owed money to the doctors. He owed money to the grocery store downtown. He was really at his wits' end," Holmes said.

Holmes talks about Frost as though he knew him, and to a certain extent, it seems he does; Frost died in 1963, and because Holmes spent nearly his entire life in the area, he knew people who knew Frost.

"My fifth and sixth-grade teacher was one of his students at Pinkerton. … I knew probably over a dozen people who knew him, though most everyone's gone now. I'm in contact with Robert Frost's granddaughter, who has very fond memories of her grandfather," he said. "People liked Frost. … He was sometimes crotchity, just like the rest of us, but he was brilliant and he was approachable."

"The Day that Made Robert Frost"

When: Monday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry
Admission: Free



***dot Complicated: Untangling Our Wired Lives*, by Randi Zuckerberg (HarperOne, 241 pages)**

Some people get published for what they know, others for who they know. Count Randi Zuckerberg among the latter.

Her *dot Complicated* is not so much a handbook for negotiating life in the digital age, but a reminder that the first step in success is to choose your parents wisely. Or, as the case may be, your siblings.

Here in hardcover are the banal musings of Mark Zuckerberg's older sister, a woman who went to Harvard (and, unlike her brother, somehow graduated) yet displays no evidence of the intellectual heft that normally accompanies an Ivy League degree. It appears she majored in platitudes. But no matter. Her brother, the Facebook founder, anointed her with the sweet oil of success when he hired her for his little Menlo Park start-up that, at the time, was connecting only college kids. Then 22, she had all the business acumen of an avocado — as evidenced by the fact that she tried to reject stock options in exchange for a higher salary. Her brother prevailed, however, and so Zuckerberg presumably no longer has to work, but alas, is determined to make her mark upon the world. It is written in marshmallow fluff.

"Online and offline, we all share, consume, and are influenced by unspoken forms of communications, such as pictures, memes, music, symbols, body language, and yes, dancing," is one of the insights she shares, to which the average, reasonable reader will reply, "Huh?"

But do not worry. Zuckerberg explains many things here, such as the purpose of a hashtag, how to build a personal brand, and that her husband, Brent, shows up on her caller ID as "Brentie." She betrays a stunning divide from the average Americans she purports to instruct when writing about her childhood in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., where she was the daughter of a dentist and doctor and, for an undisclosed portion of her education, attended the Horace Mann School, which currently charges $40,000 a year for kindergarten. But, "It doesn't get much more typically suburban than Dobbs Ferry, New York," Zuckerberg assures us, and there she lived a "wonderfully normal life," though the facts suggest that there was a lot more wonderful about it than normal.

Apart from the rapturous fiction of her ordinary upbringing, there's nothing technically wrong with this book, just like there's nothing wrong with nepotism, so long as it works for all parties involved, including investors. It's a collection of benign anecdotes overly salted with me, myself and I. This would be fine, if this were a memoir, but *dot Complicated* is sold as "a welcome, essential guide to understanding social media and technology and how they influence and inform our lives online and off" (jacket blurb) but is actually "a 31-year-old looks back on life, from the comfort of her cocoon" (actual reader).

This isn't so much a book as it is a marketing strategy, part of Zuckerman's attempt to build a brand for herself outside of her brother. That she labors in his outsized shadow is a concern oft-expressed, and she invites sympathy that will remain a no-show with statements like, "There was a chance that no matter what I did I would never be more than someone's sister." The burden of being Zuck's sister, however, is not so terrible that it would compel her to change her name upon her marriage to Brentie.

It may be that Randi Zuckerberg is the sweetest kid on her ordinary, run-of-the-mill block, and that the vitriol she has inspired over the past few years is a byproduct of envy and grossly unfair. Anyone could make the mistake of tweeting an offer for a signed copy of your book on Veteran's Day, or curtly dressing down the woman who innocently shared one of your family photographs because you weren't familiar with Facebook's privacy settings. Doesn't take a Zuckerberg.

Besides, if you work hard and get through the entire book, you may uncover a few gleaming nuggets of truth. Example: "For people you're really close to, a birthday wall post that reads 'Happy birthday!!!' isn't going to cut it, even if you use three exclamation marks. Pick up the phone and make a call. Let them know you care."

She's right about that: Multiple exclamation marks are grisly. And she's also right about this: "Giving everyone a megaphone tends to create a society that favors the loud and self-absorbed. Just because a lot of people are talking all at once doesn't mean anything valuable is being said." Therein, a social butterfly tragically impaled, hoist on her own petard. For a look at technology with smarts, try Tom Standage's *Writing on the Wall – Social Media, The First 2,000 Years*.

F — *Jennifer Graham*

CHILDREN'S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library

The Reader

by Amy Hest, illustrated by Lauren Castillo, 2012
(Picture book, ages 4-8)



One snowy afternoon, a boy takes his dog, his sled and a suitcase to the top of the hill. Once there, the suitcase is unlatched, releasing a small treasure for the two to share. This book is a cozy and warm story, perfect for a cold winter night.

OUT NEXT WEEK

Glitter and Glue: A Memoir
By Kelly Corrigan



Hits shelves: Feb. 4
Author best known for: *The Middle Place*
One-sentence review: "I loved this book, I was moved by this book, and now I will share this book with my own mother — along with my renewed appreciation for certain debts of love that can never be repaid." — Elizabeth Gilbert, New York Times bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

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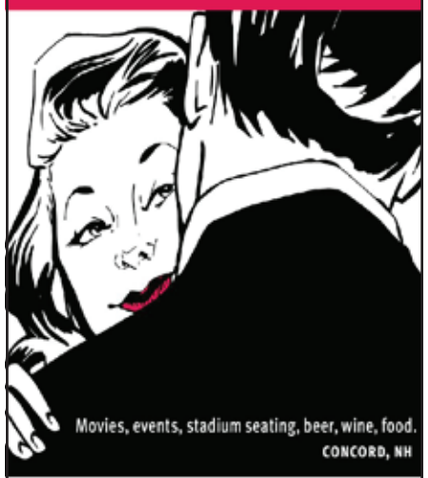






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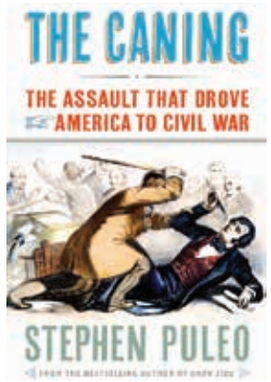
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Book Report



• **American Civil War, in Focus:** Author, historian, teacher, public speaker and communications professor Stephen Puleo presents a lecture about his book *The Caning: The Assault that Drove America to Civil War* at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. The event, originally to take place on Jan. 21, was rescheduled due to bad weather. The presentation is about what happened on May 22, 1856: Pro-slavery congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina strode into the United States Senate Chamber in D.C. and began beating renowned anti-slavery Senator Charles Sumner with his gold-topped walking cane, as described in the press release. At the event, Puleo will give context to this event and demonstrate to what it led to in the war between the states. Registration is required; email library@amherstlibrary.org, visit amherstlibrary.org or call 673-2288.

• **And it's open!** Registration for the New Hampshire Writers' Project's annual "Writers' Day" event is now open. The Saturday, March 22, event offers workshops, networking and conversations for "would-be, could-be, want-to-be and most-definitely-are writers," as described in the release, this year with B.A. Shapiro as its keynote speaker, known most for her bestselling *The Art Forger*. The day-long retreat occurs at Southern New Hampshire University's Hooksett campus, this year with four sessions of all-new workshops and seminars led by professional writers, editors, agents and publishers, in addition to face-to-face manuscript critiques and agent/publisher one-on-one pitch sessions. The event costs $205 (which includes NHWP membership). Check out writersday.org for more information.

• **Emily Gould at SNHU Jan. 30:** The Southern New Hampshire Creative Writing Program hosts Emily Gould as part of its Visiting Author Series on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m., at the Walker Auditorium, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. She'll read from her memoir, *And the Heart Says Whatever*, a series of essays about becoming an adult in New York in the first decade of the 21st century alongside bartenders, bounty hunters, bloggers, bohemians, socialites and bankers. Admission is free. Visit snhucalendar.snhu.edu or call 629-4626, k.savage@snhu.edu. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author events

• **EMILY GOULD** visits SNHU's Walker Auditorium, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester, on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m., to talk about her memoir, *And the Heart Says Whatever*. Free admission. Visit snhucalendar.snhu.edu.

• **DAN SZCZESNY** talks about *The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie* at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on Sat., Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; at the Amherst Public Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Tues., April 8, at 7 p.m.; at the Griffin Free Library, 22 Hooksett Road, Auburn, at 6:30 p.m.

• **BEN BRADLEE JR.** talks about *The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams* on Sat., Feb. 1, at 11 a.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Following, he'll speak again, also on Sat., Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. at the Toadstool Bookshop, 614 Nashua St., Lorden Plaza, Milford, 673-1734, toadstool.indiebound.com.

• **THOMAS MOORE** talks about/signs *A Religion of One's Own: A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World* on Sat., Feb. 1, at 11 a.m., at Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough.

• **MIDWINTER AUTHORS AFTERNOON** at the Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry, on Sat., Feb. 1, at 1:30 p.m. Presenting Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Terry Farish, Brendan Halpin, N. Griffin and Erin Bowman. Author readings, Q/A, book sale, signing. Visit derrypl.org, call 432-6140 for details. Open mic (two-minute readings) to follow. On-site book sale hosted by Water Street Books.

• **MARTY KELLY** author of books like *Fall is Not Easy* and *Winter Woes* presents at the Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollis-library.org, on Sat., Feb. 1, 2-3:30 p.m.

• **STEPHEN PULEO** presents *The Caning: The Assault that Drove America to Civil War* on Mon., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, library@amherst-library.org, amherstlibrary.org, registration required. Call 673-2288 to save a spot.

• **RACHEL URQUHART** reads from and discusses *The Visionist* on Tues., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m., at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, river-runbookstore.com.

• **LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** at Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye, 964-8401, on Tues., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. Featuring local authors K.D. Mason (*Killer Run*), Darcy Scott (*Reese's Lamp*) and Robert Wiley (*Collected Short Stories*), who will discuss and read latest works. 964-8401.

• **SONIA SOTOMAYOR** talks about her memoir, *My Beloved World*, on Wed., Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., at The Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 766-2192. Tickets are $13.25, and with each 1-2 tickets sold, the purchase of a $15.95 book voucher is required.

• **LIZ O'DONNELL** talks about *Mogul, Mom, & Maid: The Balancing Act of the Modern Woman* on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsons-bookstore.com.

• **WHERE DO POEMS COME FROM?** workshop at Aryaloka Buddhist Center on Sat., Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at 14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket. Workshop about mystery of poetry using image, observation, memory and silence. Fee $48-$72. Visit aryaloka.org.

• **ERIN GARDNER** owner of Wild Orchid Bakery and author of *Great Cake Decorating* presents at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, on Sat., Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. Also bringing treats to try. Visit waterstreet-books.com, call 778-9731.

• **ANN EDWARDS** presents debut novel *Gina* on Sat., Feb. 8, at 2 p.m., at Toadstool Bookshop, Lorden Plaza, 614 Nashua St., Milford.

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I, Frankenstein (PG-13)

Story coherence bad, says the movie *I, Frankenstein*, which is either a hilarious joke movie or a total failure or both!

Victor Frankenstein (Aden Young) created life — "it's alive!" or in the case of this movie "it's leaden and sluggish!" — in the form of a horrible monster (Aaron Eckhart). The monster — who we know is a monster because he has stitch-scars on his face and wears smudgy eye make-up — killed Frankenstein's wife and then ran off. Frankenstein froze to death trying to track the monster as it wandered into the Arctic.

The monster found Frankenstein and took him back to his family plot to bury him, wherein he was attacked and almost captured by a group of demons. He was saved in part by Keziah (Caitlin Stasey) and Ophir (Mahesh Jadu), gargoyles, who are the warriors for good in a whole good-vs.-evil battle that has been taking place on Earth since the dawn of time. Gargoyles:

• Can fly

• Can transform into the stone-decoration things we associate with the word "gargoyle" and can also, thanks to some surprisingly amateurish CGI, move around as these creatures.

• Are ruled by a gargoyle queen named Leonore (Miranda Otto).

Demons, meanwhile:

• Use the magic of CGI to turn into something that looks like a mask you bought at a discount costume store.

• Turn into swirls of flame when killed. (If you saw any heavy metal cover band's MySpace page circa 2006 you will be familiar with this effect.)

• Are hunting Frankenstein's monster to learn the secrets of reanimating the dead.

This last demon fact is due to an order from demon prince Naberius (Bill Nighy — who, much like actor Michael Sheen, isn't afraid to slum it and have some fun in crappy fantasy movies). Naberius wants to use the reanimation technology to make an army of demons.



I, Frankenstein

The gargoyle warriors want to destroy the monster and all of Frankenstein's notes, but Leonore feels the monster might one day develop a soul and aid the gargoyles in the fight against the demons, so she lets him live and gives him the name Adam. FrankenAdam doesn't know from demons or gargoyles and just wants to be left alone, which works for a few centuries until the demons find him and start hunting him again. So he decides to turn the tables and hunt down all the demons he can find, leading him back to some city that is the gargoyle headquarters, let's say modern day Inglostadt. Here, Naberius is now a nattily dressed businessman who has hired scientists, including the brainy Terra (Yvonne Strahovski), to work on the reanimation question. They think that Frankenstein and his monster are just a myth and that their work will help people, never suspecting the clash of CGI-creatures that is happening on green screens all around them.

So we're only two terrible "What am I watching? Is this a real movie?" movies in to 2014 and the rules of journalism require me to get three before I can label it a trend but — here's hoping! I am giddy with the prospect of 2014 being the year when movies aren't just fine or so-so but completely hair-on-fire, operatically terrible. (For the record: I'd be pretty happy if we could have a year of awesome movies. But based on the last few weeks, that does not appear to be where 2014 is going.) *I, Frankenstein*, like *The Legend of Hercules* only a few weeks ago, is a glittering jewel of awful film-making. If you wanted to teach a class on making the worst movies possible, this January would already have filled the first half of your syllabus.

For example, allow me to present some of the lines of dialogue. Please imagine each of these said with complete earnestness and with the "Acting! I'm Acting!" turned up to 11:

• "I've come to destroy you." — FrankenAdam to Naberius

• "Descend in pain, demon!" — FrankenAdam to one of the demons he kills.

• "You contain the answers so many seek." Someone (Terra, I think) to FrankenAdam, to which he responds "I seek my own answers."

• "You are only a monster if you behave like one." Someone (again, Terra probably) to FrankenAdam. She may have said this to him during a scene in which she bandages his wounds (out of which red blood flows —huh?) back at his apartment after a fight. He, of course, has to take off his shirt and appears to flex while looking at himself in the mirror. Because Victor Frankenstein specifically put "guns, six pack" on the list of body parts he needed when he was sewing together his monster.

Other fun facts about the dialogue:

• Everything FrankenAdam says is in gravelly Batman voice, which I think is supposed to make him sound monstrous but really just makes him sound like he's fighting a cold.

• Every line that includes the words "gargoyle queen" is hilarious.

• Speaking of Frankenstein-ing: much of the dialogue feels like it was cut and pasted, ransom-note-style, from other scripts. A bit of dialogue that goes something like "look after yourself; it's what you're good at" seems cribbed from *Star Wars*, and if your movie has started stealing dialogue from a George Lucas movie, dude, you're not even doing unoriginality right.

I, Frankenstein also features a scene where a "loading"-style bar tells you what percent reanimated a corpse is (thusly can we get increasingly closer to 100 percent as characters fight cheap-looking, poorly choreographed battles). And, spoiler alert, the final spoken words of this heavily narrated movie are "I [dramatic pause] Frankenstein!" I could go on, but maybe some day you and a friend will have some booze and two hours to kill and you'll want to spend some time watching this and I don't want to completely spoil the experience for you. Bad movies are released all the time but *I, Frankenstein* is so thoroughly and unapologetically terrible on every level that it really is special. **F**

Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense fantasy action and violence throughout. Directed by Stuart Beattie with a screenplay by Beattie (based on a graphic novel by Kevin Greviox and characters by Mary Shelley), I, Frankenstein *is an hour and 32 minutes long and is distributed by Lionsgate.*

REVIEWLETS

* indicates a movie worth seeing. For reviews of graded films, go to hippopress.com

Opening soon:

Jan. 31: *Labor Day* (R) Kate Winslet and Josh Brolin star in this movie about a fragile divorcee who finds unexpected romance with an escaped prisoner; *That Awkward Moment* (R) is a relationship comedy starring Zac Efron.

Feb. 7: *The Lego Movie* (PG) is an animated movie featuring the voices of Chris Pratt and Elizabeth Banks; *The Monuments Men* (PG-13) stars George Clooney and Matt Damon, saving the great art of Europe during WWII; *Vampire Academy* is based on a series of YA books.

Oscar-nominated movies:

Most Oscar-nominated films are now screening somewhere near-ish you. Here are the films nominated for Best Picture this year.

***American Hustle* (R)**
Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence.
David O Russell's latest is loosely based on the ABSCAM scandal of 1980. **A**

***Captain Phillips* (PG-13)**
Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi.
Paul Greengrass directs this slightly too-long biopic about a ship hijacked by Somali pirates. (This movie is already available for home viewing via DVD and other outlets.) **B-**

***Dallas Buyers Club* (R)**
Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto.
This movie about the early days of the AIDS crisis features strong performances from its male leads. (This movie is scheduled for DVD release on Feb. 4.) **B**

***Gravity* (PG-13)**
Sandra Bullock, George Clooney.
Director Alfonso Cuaron presents this beautifully executed story of (for the most part) one woman stranded in space. (This movie is scheduled for DVD release on Feb. 25 but I'd recommend seeing in in theaters and in 3-D if possible.) **B+**

***Her* (R)**
Joaquin Phoenix, Scarlett Johansson.
In the not too distant future, the introduction of a sentient operating system offers the lonely a new kind of friendship. **B**

***Nebraska* (R)**
Will Forte, Bruce Dern.
Alexander Payne directs this tale of a son's road trip with his aging father through the western midwest. **A**

***Philomena* (PG-13)**
Judi Dench, Steve Coogan.
Sweet, funny, heart-breaking and featuring a gem of a performance from Dench, *Philomena* is the true story of a woman who searches for the son she lost nearly 50 years earlier. **A**

***12 Years A Slave* (R)**
Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender.
Plus more Cumberbatch in this tale of a free black man kidnapped and sold into the pre-Civil War south from director Steve McQueen. (This movie has an estimated DVD release date for sometime in March.) **A-**

***The Wolf of Wall Street* (R)**
Leonard DiCaprio, Matthew McConaughey.
If sleazy party scenes of jerky stockbrokers snorting lines of cocaine off the backsides of prostitutes is your thing, has Martin Scorsese got three hours of film for you. **B**

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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

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- ***Nebraska*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, at 2:05 p.m.
- ***Blue Jasmine*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:30 p.m.
- ***Sparrows*** (NR, 1926) on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.
- Mary Pickford: Queen of the Movies film event on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.
- ***Philomena*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 31, at 1, 3:20, 6 & 8:20 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 1, at 1, 3:20, 6 & 8:20 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 2, at 1, 3:20, 6 & 8:20 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 3, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 4, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 5, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 6, at 2, 5:30 & 7:45 p.m.
- ***Inside Llewyn Davis*** (R, 2013) on Fri., Feb. 31, at 1:05 & 8:25 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 1, at 1:05 & 8:25 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 2, at 6:45 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 3, at 8 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 4, at 8 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.
- **Oscar nominated shorts: animated** (NR, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 31, at 1:15 & 5:45 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 1, at 1:15 & 5:45 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 2, at 4:45 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 3, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 4, at 5:30 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 5, at 2:10 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 6, at 2:10 p.m.
- **Oscar nominated shorts: live action** (NR, 2013) on Fri., Feb. 31, at 3:30 & 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 1, at 3:30 & 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 3, at 5:30 p.m.; Tues., Feb.4, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m.
- **Oscar nominated shorts: documentary** (NR, 2013) on Sun., Feb. 2, at 1:15 p.m., & Thurs., Feb. 6, at 5:30 p.m.
- ***Groundhog Day*** (PG, 1993) on Sun., Feb. 2, at 2 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL
40 Main St. in Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com

- ***Nebraska*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, through Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings on Sun., Feb. 2, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
- ***Inside Llewyn Davis*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, through Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings on Sun., Feb. 2, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
- ***Humoresque*** (NR, 1946) on Sat., Feb. 1, at 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS
44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

- ***Coriolanus*** National Theatre Live on Mon., Feb. 3, at 6 p.m.
- ***Rusalka*** Met Live in HD on Sat., Feb. 8, at 12:55 p.m.
- ***Great Expectations*** rebroadcast of live event on London's West End on Sat., Feb. 8, at 7 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us

- ***Bless Me Ultima*** (PG-13, 2013) on Wed., Feb. 5, at 1 p.m.
- ***Dragon Heart*** (PG-13) on Wed., Feb. 12, at 1 p.m.
- ***Dead Poets Society*** (PG, 1989) on Wed., Feb. 19, at 1 p.m.
- ***The Black Stallion*** (G, 1979) on Wed., Feb. 26, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY
76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, manchester.lib.nh.us

- ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Jan. 31, at 3 p.m.
- ***Free Birds*** (PG, 2013) on Fri., Feb. 7, at 3 p.m.
- ***Sound of Music: Live with Carrie Underwoood*** on Fri., Feb. 14, at 3 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedfordonline.com, free movie at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, presented through Parks & Recreation

- ***To Please a Lady*** (1950) on Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.

NEW HAMPSHIRE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
31 College Drive, Concord, 271-6484, ext. 4101

- ***Who Cares About Kelsey?*** (documentary) on Mon., Feb. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, onconcord.com/library

- ***Groundhog Day*** (PG, 1993) on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.
- ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*** (PG, 2009) on Tues., Feb. 25, at 2:30 p.m.

HOOKSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY
31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, 485-6092, hooksettlibrary.org, Free films and popcorn.

- ***Captain Phillips*** (PG-13, 2013) on Thurs., Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

CHUNKY'S CINEMA
151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055

- **Local Movie Month** *What About Bob?* (PG, 1991) is on Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule. Seating is limited. Food and drink are not permitted. Cinema Cabaret screens adult films on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and the family film series screens on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The two series run from October to May.

- ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*** (PG, 2013) on Sat., Feb. 1, at 2 p.m.
- ***Captain Phillips*** (PG-13, 2013) on Tues., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.
- ***Free Birds*** (PG, 2013) on Sat., Feb. 8, at 2 p.m.
- ***Blue Jasmine*** (PG-13, 2013) on Tues., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org, Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St.

- ***The Great Beauty*** (NR, 2013) Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.
- ***Midnight in Paris*** (PG-13, 2011) Thurs., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. (Loft)
- ***Captain Phillips*** (PG-13, 2013) Fri., Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 2, at 4 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.
- ***The Punk Singer*** (NR, 2013) Sat., Feb. 1, and Sun, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 4, through Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. (Loft)

SEACOAST REPERTORY THEATRE
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4793, seacoastrep.org

- ***Pee-wee's Big Adventure*** (PG, 1985) on Fri., Jan. 31, at 8 p.m.

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Returning:** After placing eighth in the International Blues Competition, Erik Gustafson, a.k.a. **Fingers Ray**, is back from Memphis to entertain at the Weare roadhouse that loves him like a hometown son, though he is a Montana expatriate. The acoustic guitarist placed higher than any previous New Hampshire contender at the January contest, so we're glad he calls the Granite State home. See Erik Gustafson on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. at Boondocks Tavern, 487 Route 114, Weare (529-0901).

• **Jamming:** Long before Phish and Dave Matthews, **Max Creek** launched its free-form jam band, garnering recognition for 1983's *Drink the Stars*. There've been personnel changes — the drums and percussion team of Bill Carbone and Jamemurrell Stanley weren't even alive at the band's mid-'70s inception — but the festival favorites are still going strong. See Max Creek on Friday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. at Tupelo Music Hall, 2 Young Road, Londonderry. Tickets are $25 at tupelohall.com.

• **Expanding:** A unique meeting of musical minds happens when **Amorphous Band & The Soul Sisters** perform. The latter are singers Cindy Kaza, Gina Alibrio & Yamica Peterson, who join the Seacoast group for what promises to be a "soul shaking dance party … full funk throwdown" — in other words, bring comfortable shoes. See Amorphous Band and the Soul Sisters on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m. at Chameleon Club, 11 Fourth St., Dover. Tickets are $6 (21+). See amorphousmusic.com.

• **Fingerpicking:** Escape the Super Bowl drumbeat with **Marjorie Thompson**, who performs an afternoon concert accompanied by bassist Greg Franklin. The singer-songwriter/guitarist's influences are Piedmont blues — Mississippi John Hurt and Rev Gary Davis — and contemporary players like Dave Van Ronk, who inspired the film *Inside Llewyn Davis*. See Marjorie Thompson on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 9 p.m. at Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford (472-2300).

• **Interacting:** Bringing the prime-time hit *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* to the stage, **Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood**'s show is driven almost entirely by audience participation. The crowd shouts out suggestions, sometimes finding themselves on stage with the duo. Comedy gold (well, sometimes bronze) ensues. See An Evening With Colin & Brad on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets are $54.50, $44.50 and $34.50 (VIP $74.50) at palacetheatre.org.

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NITE

All four one

Acoustic dynamo Four Legged Faithful hit Manchester

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com



The Four Legged Faithful. Courtesy photo.

Upright bass, mandolin, guitar and banjo — if those words were a Rorschach test, a typical response would be "bluegrass." But Joey Pierog, bassist for The Four Legged Faithful, might beg to differ. His band's sound owes more to indie folk than Appalachia.

"Our biggest influence as a band would have to be Fleet Foxes, which is not really bluegrass at all," Pierog said recently. "Their four-part vocals, rich harmonies … that's where we come from, not as much the traditional stuff."

The group's name reflects its eclecticism.

"The four of us, we're all one leg of this awkward galloping mule. … If one of us doesn't do our job, it collapses," said Pierog. "We're a strange batch of people. How our influences match up is very odd, but somehow it works."

Pierog met guitarist Matt Migliori through a Berklee professor who'd heard about a jam band that needed an electric bass player. At the time, Migliori was on drums. After the group broke up, Pierog began hanging out at Rocking Horse Studio, a facility in Pittsfield that his uncle and brothers had helped build. On one of his first projects, he backed singer songwriter Christian Cuff.

Cuff's rootsy Americana energized Pierog.

"Doing it every single day for a month at a time really opened me up to it," he said. "Before I was playing upright jazz, which is really cool and had a lot to do with my style. But this took me to another place artistically."

Four Legged Faithful

When: Saturday, Feb. 1, at 9 p.m.
Where: Shaskeen Pub, 900 Elm St., Manchester
More: thefourleggedfaithful.com

Meanwhile, Migliori and banjo player Nathan Pelletier were also experimenting with acoustic music, and invited Pierog to join.

"We played a show within that month — it was really quick," recalled Pierog, and six months later when Jon Kaplan sat in on mandolin, the trio became a quartet. "The chemistry was immediate."

What became the band's first album, 2012's *Regret & Resolve*, was recorded mostly in Pierog's basement.

"We didn't want to waste a lot of money if we didn't know how it was going to turn out," he said. "The experience taught me a lot and got me ready for coming into the studio."

Pierog recorded and mixed the band's new album, *Devoured In the Dark*, with production credit going to the entire group. They labored for nine months on the expansive disc, hewing closely to their live sound while polishing it like a jewel with repeated takes. Musically, it touches on many moods, from the rambunctious "Here We Are," which opens the record, to the jazzy instrumental "Trust Fall" and the whimsical "Gretta."

The latter song contains the album's title and is an ode to artistic struggle. It employs a mythical mountain shark as a metaphor.

"The futility of aiming for perfection," Pierog mused. "You're reaching for something you'll never really get — your magnum opus. When you have it in your grasp, you don't even notice it's there. It's really about the toil of each artist."

Mostly by trial and error, the band has built a following around its Boston/Cambridge base.

"We played different places until we figured out what worked. Cambridge was great because the age group and kind of people really seem to like us," said Pierog.

With the new album, they're planning on more shows in New Hampshire; the affiliation with Rocking Horse should help on the summer festival circuit later this year. But they won't overdo it.

"Something we've learned is you don't want to saturate any one place," Pierog said. "Come back once a month. Play a good show and leave everyone wanting more."

Banjo concerto

Bela Fleck and Brooklyn Rider team for classical effort

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

For Bela Fleck, it's always been the banjo. Wikipedia claims he studied horn as a teenager, but that's a laughable notion to the four-string maestro.

"Completely false," Fleck stated in a recent interview. "Music and Arts in New York didn't teach guitar … so they assigned me to French Horn. I had absolutely no aptitude for that instrument and eventually was demoted to the chorus. Meanwhile, I feverishly practiced my banjo."

A genre-bending approach made Fleck synonymous with his instrument in the same way Jerry Douglas defines the Dobro. He's played bluegrass with countless ensembles and made pop music with Shawn Colvin, jazz with Chick Corea and classical with Edgar Meyer, to name a few.

One of his earliest forays into pop came with Bruce Hornsby in 1990 after the two met at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. Fleck was there with his first band, New Grass Revival.

"We were all big fans of his, and he invited us to sit in with him. I got to do

a couple of recordings with him, and he also played on some Flecktones stuff. And we did some duo touring."

It was a precursor to even bigger gigs further on.

"I came out and guested with The Range, at their peak. I think it prepared me for … playing with Dave Matthews a few years later. It's a different experience playing an arena than a theater or club," he said.

Fleck is working of late with Brooklyn Rider, a chamber ensemble equally comfortable stretching musical boundaries. "Night Flight Over Water: Quintet for Banjo and String Quartet" is the centerpiece of *The Impostor*, their album recorded last year for Deutsch Gramophone — Fleck's first for the label.

> *I was not aware of them at all, until I began to look for the right string quartet to work with. ... At that point all roads led to Brooklyn Rider.*
>
> BELA FLECK

"I really liked the idea that if I were doing a classical project, it should be on a classical label," he said.

It's also his first time collaborating with the young group of violinists Johnny Gandelsman and Colin Jacobsen, violist Nicholas Cords and cellist Eric Jacobsen.

"I was not aware of them at all until I began to look for the right string quartet to work with," remembered Fleck. "They popped up pretty fast. At that point all roads led to Brooklyn Rider."

Making *The Impostor* was a much different experience from working with Meyer in 2001.

"Edgar tends to have strong views and enjoys a good scuffle in the cause of making great music. The Brooklyn Rider guys tend to find consensus and flow. They have completely different personalities and styles."

Rehearsals happened in front of a live studio audience.

"I think that had a very positive impact on the recording," Fleck said. "Because we had taken this very complex piece and made sure we could perform it in front of people, we were able to keep the live performance aspects in mind. … We had something to refer to at times when there was doubt about how the whole thing was going to work together."

Their tour stops at Manchester's Dana Center on Jan. 30. The shows are "very exciting, a true collaboration," Fleck said. "The night goes by fast, with a lot of variety."

Included are selections from the new album, Flecktones and New Grass Revival material, Fleck playing solo and a Brooklyn Rider set.

When this run is done, Fleck is looking forward to working with his wife, claw hammer banjo player and singer Abigail Washburn. The duo recently booked a Sept. 17 show at Derry's Stockbridge Theatre. Asked about any dream pairings yet unrealized, Fleck didn't disappoint.

"When Pat Metheny, Yo Yo Ma or Herbie Hancock call me up, I'll be on the next flight to jam with them," he said. "Joni Mitchell, James Taylor and Randy Newman — just those guys. … Oh yes, and U2 could really use a banjo. And Peter Gabriel."

Bela Fleck & Brooklyn Rider

When: Thursday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m.
Where: Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, Manchester
Tickets: $42.75 at anselm.edu/dana



Bela Fleck and Brooklyn Rider. Courtesy photo.







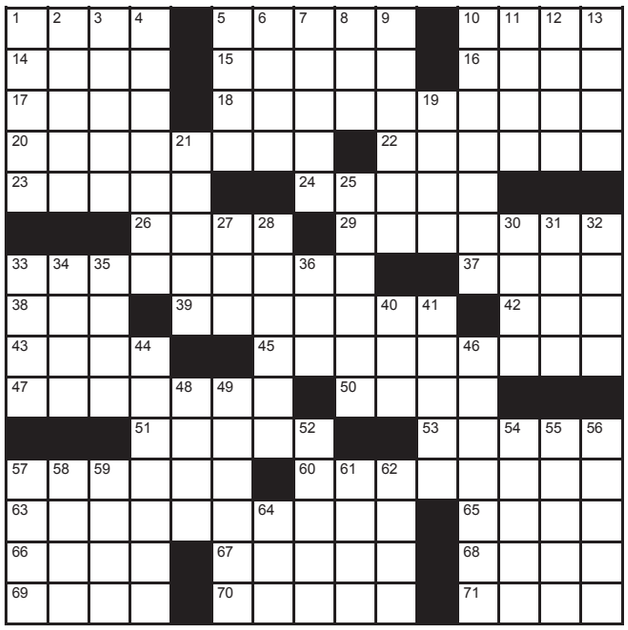


ROCK N' ROLL CROSSWORD BY TODD SANTOS

We are the puzzles gone wild

Across

1. Like career from square one
5. Journalist checks them
10. 'Dark Days' __ Chamber
14. "Rode in on the Greyhound, I'll be walkin' out if I go" CCR
15. '00 Offspring album 'Conspiracy __ __' (2,3)
16. 60s rocker hairdo
17. Early 90s Michael Jackson single 'Who __ __' (2,2)
18. Sammy Hagar 'Red Voodoo' drinking song (3,7)
20. 'LA Song (Out Of This Town)' singer (4,4)
22. J Geils '__ __ Got Lost' (4,2)
23. Killers "Where __ __, where is my baby girl?" (2,3)
24. Inner Circle "Girl I want to make you __"
26. Breeders song about colored eye part?
29. Rockers w/substance dependence
33. Basic Tears For Fears album?
37. 'Here & Now' Letters To __
38. Worn by a rocker in the 50s, perhaps
39. Village People 'In Hollywood (Everybody __)' (2,1,4)
42. Operation Ivy 'Yellin' In My __'
43. Robert Plant '__ Cool One'
45. Video/single off 'Skid Row' album (5,2,2)
47. Belgian electronic duo for a storehouse?
50. Hootie's 'View' that was 'Cracked'
51. '00 Oasis hit '__ __ It Out' (2,3)
53. Prima donnas
57. '82 Who hit off 'It's Hard'
60. Jet 'Are You Gonna __' (2,2,4)
63. Glen Campbell '__ Cowboy'
65. Musical think tank nugget
66. 'We're An American Band' producer Rundgren
67. Aimee Mann 'It Takes All __'
68. Like sign in concert hall
69. Petitions former member
70. Skid Row 'Makin' __ __' (1,4)
71. Escape (The Pina Colada __)



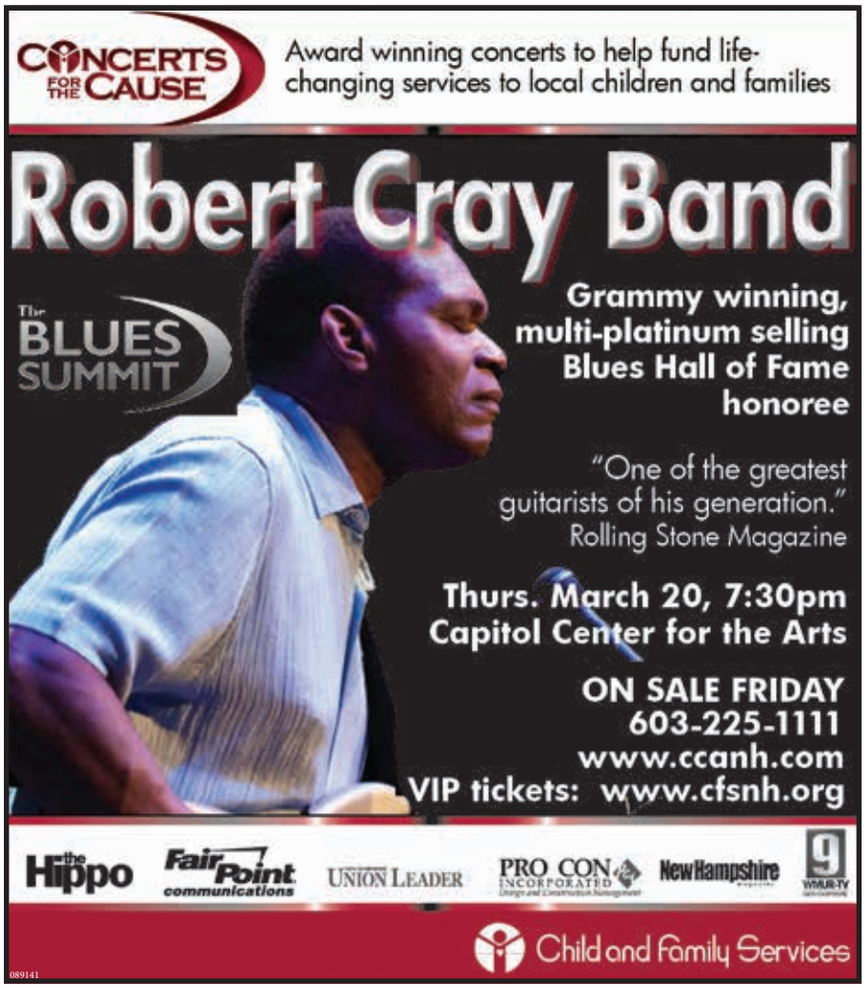
Down

1. Ramones "You know I need no __"
2. Oft-used orifices in 70s
3. Bends and shapes recording
4. Babyface "How could you fall in love __ __?" (4,3)
5. '95 Nixons album
6. Like distant seating area
7. Tour receipt listings
8. Explosive AC/DC album from '75?
9. Darkness '__ Like A Good Idea At The Time'
10. Trivium '__ Are The Ties That Bind'
11. Loverboy 'Lovin' Every Minute __ __' (2,2)
12. 'Amigo' Guthrie
13. 'Web In Front' Archers Of __
19. __ City DJ's 'C'mon N' Ride It (The Train)'
21. Bryan Adams '__ __ Am'
25. Steely Dan's Becker
27. Instrument store connections
28. Set list mainstay
30. Pitch indicator
31. Kind of band work
32. The Color Red '__ Throat'
33. Jazz/soul singer James
34. Sex Pistols song about Pinocchio?
35. Mark Oliver Everett's band
36. Sophie B Hawkins '__ __ Lay Me Down' (2,1)
40. Frehley Sebastian Bach sang w/ on 'Back To School'
41. Jeff Beck 'People Get __'
44. Hall-of-Famers
46. Beginnings of band
48. Sixpence __ The Richer
49. Where Jewel is from
52. 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' Grammy-winner Burnett (1,4)
54. AC/DC 'Blow Up Your ___'
55. Dio 'Egypt (The Chains __ __)' (3,2)
56. Shins 'New __'
57. Dark Funeral practices 'Secrets Of The Black' ones
58. 'O Brother, Where Art __?' soundtrack
59. You've Got To __ Your Love Away
61. 'Here's Where The Story __' Sundays
62. Inebriated rocker
64. Armstrong of Rancid

1/23

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For A Night out With Friends

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Sat. Feb 1st

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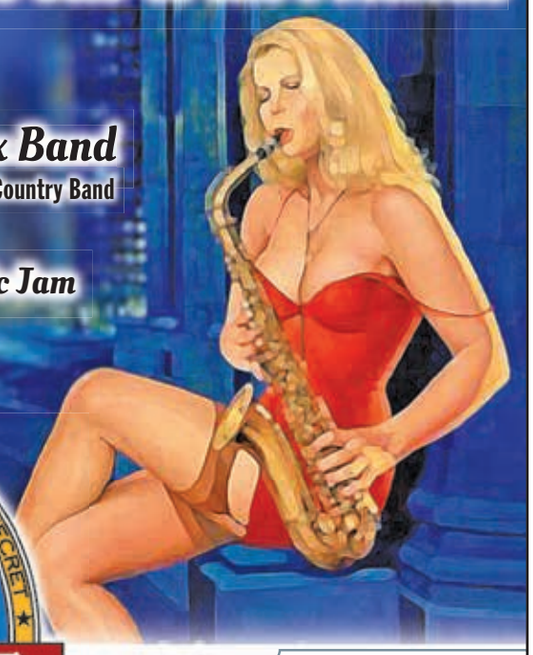
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UPCOMING EVENTS



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SATURDAY 2/1

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst
La Belle Winery
345 Route 101 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd 622-6564

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub
550 Province Rd 664-2030

Bedford
Bedford Village Inn
2 Olde Bedford Way 472-2001
Copper Door
15 Leavy Drive 488-2677
Shorty's
206 Route 101 488-5706
Starbucks
220 S. River Rd 263-0061

Belmont
El Jimador
171 DW Highway 527-8122
Lakes Region Casino
1265 Laconia Rd. 267-7778
Lodge at Belmont
Route 106 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd 528-3244

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St. 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

Bradford
Appleseed Restaurant
63 High St., 938-2100

Bristol
Back Room at Mill
2 Central St. 744-0405

Brookline
Cozy Tea Cart
104 Route 13 249-9111
Mad Hatter Bar & Grill
99 Route 13 672-1800

Concord
Barley House
132 N. Main, 228-6363
Granite Restaurant & Bar
96 Pleasant St. 227-9000
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
Makris
354 Sheep Davis Rd 225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd 226-0533
Red Blazer
72 Manchester St. 224-4101
Tandy's Top Shelf
1 Eagle Square 856-7614
True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Square 225-2776

Contoocook
Contoocook Covered Bridge
Cedar St. 746-5191

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
4 North Road 463-7374

Derry
Coffee Factory
55 Crystal Ave 432-6006
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway 965-3490
Sabatino's North
1 E. Broadway 432-7999
Steve-N-James Tavern
187 Rockingham Rd 434-0600

Dover
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave. 742-9632
Asia
42 Third Street 742-9816
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave. 742-4226
Cara Irish Pub
11 Fourth St. 343-4390
Cartelli's
446 Central Ave. 750-4002
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St. 749-3838
Fury's Publick House
1 Washington St 617-3633
Jimmy's Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St. 740-4477
Kelley's Row
421 Central Ave. 750-7081
Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108 743-3045
RJ's
83 Washington St.
Roger's Pizza
869 Central Ave. 742-9870
Sonny's Tavern
328 Central Ave 343-4332
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St. 740-0006

Epping
Holy Grail
64 Main St. 679-9559

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
39 Windymere Dr. 736-9656

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
10 Columbus Ave. 772-3856

Gilford
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd 293-8700
Patrick's
18 Weirs Rd. 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St. 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Rd 668-1088

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse
220 East Main St 378-0092
Village Square
472 State St. 329-6879

Hampton
Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd 926-8322
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd 967-4771

Hanover
Jesse's Tavern
224 Lebanon St 643-4111
Salt Hill Pub Hanover
7 Lebanon Street 676-7855

Henniker
Country Spirit
262 Maple Street 428-7007
Daniel's
Main St. 428-7621
Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd. 428-8511
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road 888-728-7732

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Road 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd 621-9298
New England's Tap House Grille
1292 Hooksett Rd. 782-5137
Pizza Man
River Road

Hudson
AJ's Sports Bar & Grill
11 Tracy Lane 718-1102
JD Chaser's
2B Burnham Rd 886-0792
Nan King Restaurant & Lounge
222 Central St. 882-1911
SoHo
49 Lowell Rd. 889-6889

Kingston
Bucco's Tavern
143 Main St. 642-4999
Kingston 1686 House Tavern
127 Main St. 642-3637

Laconia
Anthony's Pier
263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St. 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526
Cactus Jack's
1182 Union Ave. 528-7800
Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411
Fratello's Lakes
799 Union Ave. 528-2022
Jazz Bar
290 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Margate Resort
76 Lake St. 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd. 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave. 366-2665
Patio Garden
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St. 527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd 437-2022
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road 432-3210
Twins Smoke Shop
128 Rockingham Rd
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Rd No. 13 434-2660

Loudon
Hungry Buffalo
58 New Hampshire 129 798-3737

Manchester
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St. 621-9111
British Beer Company
1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St. 625-9656
CK's Grill
791 Second St 669-2868
Club 313
93 S. Maple St. 628-6813
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Road 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St. 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St. 641-2583
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St. 627-2922
Farm Bar & Grille
1181 Elm St. 641-3276
Fratello's
155 Dow Street 624-2022
Gaucho's Churrascaria
62 Lowell St. 669-9460
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover Street 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St. 494-6225
J. Dubs Coffee
1000 Elm St. 622-7944
Jade Dragon MHT
1087 Elm St. 669-5523
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St. 203-1458
Jokers
1279 South Willow Street 935-9947
Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar
1077 Elm St. 647-6653
Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley 622-1021
Mad Bob's Saloon
342 Lincoln St. 669-3049
McGarvey's
1097 Elm St. 627-2721
Midnight Rodeo (Yard)
1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St. 644-3535
N'awlins Grille
860 Elm St. 606-2488
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St. 644-5559
Penuche's on Hanover
96 Hanover St. 626-9830
Piccola's
815 Elm St. 296-4070
Raxx Lounge
1195 Elm St. 203-1458
Salona Bar & Grill
128 Maple St. 624-4020
Shaskeen
909 Elm St. 625-0246
Shorty's
1050 Bicentennial Dr. 625-1730
Sizzle Bistro
1 Highlander Way 232-3344
Social 24
24 Depot St. 782-8489
Starbucks
1111 South Willow St 641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St. 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St. 669-4678
TJ's Bar & Grill
23 Central St. 660-2241
Unwine'd
865 Second St. 625-9463
Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722
XO on Elm
827 Elm St. 206-5721

Meredith
Camp
300 Daniel Webster Highway 279-3003

Thursday, Jan. 30

Amherst
La Belle Winery: Beth Mangano

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Rockin' Ronnie Adams

Boscawen
Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge

Concord
Granite: CJ Poole & The Sophisticated Approach
Hermanos: Mike Morris

Dover
Brick House: Dan Walker
Fury's: Erin's Guild
Sonny's: Wheel of Awesome

Epping
Holy Grail: Max Sullivan

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse: Live Music

Laconia
Paradise Beach Club: DJ Gin-E
Pitman's Freight Room: Zeke Martin

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Karen Grenier
Whippersnappers: Brooks Hubbard

Manchester
Club 313: DJ Pez & DJ Carlos
Drynk: Co-Ed Thursdays with DJ Shawn Danjah White & Friends
Element: Thirsty Thursday Karaoke w/DJ Sharon
Fratello's Manchester: Fernando Argenti Jazz Open Mic
Karma: DJ Midas w/Reed on drums
Manchvegas: Jason Aldean Pre-Party
Midnight Rodeo: Line Dancing Lessons
Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Tail Light Rebellion w/ Tristan Omand
Shorty's: Steve Tolley
Strange Brew: HR & Co.

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez

Nashua
Amsterdam: DJ Sammy Smoove
Boston Billiard Club: DJ & Beach Night
Shorty's: Brandon Lepere

Newmarket
Stone Church: Live Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki

Portsmouth
British Beer Company: Jackson Wetherbee
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Gas Light: Apres Ski Party
Press Room: Matthew Stubbs w/ Lyle Brewer
Red Door: Ex-Magicians, Gymshorts, The Jonee Earthquake Band
Rudi's: Dimitri & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Eyenine and The Lonely Ghost Collective

Weare
Boondocks: Erik Ray

Friday, Jan. 31

Bedford
Shorty's: Lisa Guyer

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Hounsell

Boscawen
Alan's: Chris Gardener

Brookline
Mad Hatter: Live Music

Concord
Makris: Natalie Turgeon Duo
Red Blazer: Brad Myrick
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Laid to Dust & Yankee Cockfight

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker

Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 Daniel Webster Hwy
279-3313

Merrimack
Giorgio's Ristorante & Martini Bar
707 Milford Road 883-7333
Homestead
641 Daniel Webster Highway 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway 424-2280
Pacific Fusion
356 Daniel Webster Highway 424-6320

Milford
Chapanga's
168 Elm St. 249-5214
Clark's Tavern
40 Nashua St. 769-3119
Giorgio's Ristorante & Meze Bar
524 Nashua St. 673-3939
J's Tavern
63 Union Sq. 249-9222
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St. 672-2060
Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq. 672-2270
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road 673-7123

Nashua
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St. 821-5260
Amsterdam
8 Temple St. 204-5534
Arena Sportsbar & Nightclub
53 High St. 881-9060
Bernie's
522 Amherst St. 978-884-9536
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Cucina Toscana
427 Amherst St 821-7356
Fat Daddy's Café
650 Amherst St. 821-5136
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd. 888-1551
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St. 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St. 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St. 886-7363
O'Shea's Tavern & Cigar Bar
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St. 886-3501
Riverwalk Coffee
35 Railroad Sq. 578-0200
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St. 886-1344
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557
Shorty's
48 Gusabel Ave 882-4070
Unums
47 E. Pearl St. 821-6500
Villa Banca
194 Main St. 598-0500
Wicked Twisted
38 East Hollis St. 577-1718

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd 487-2011

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road 526-6899

Newington
Momma D's Casa di Pasta
347 Shattuck Way 431-6511

Newmarket
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St. 659-2329
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St. 659-3696
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 292-3546

Newport
Salt Hill Pub Newport
58 Main St. 863-7774

Newton
Hen House
85 South Main St 382-1705

North Hampton
Locals 215 Lafayette Rd. 379-2729

Northwood
Tough Tymes 221 Rochester Rd 942-5555

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd. 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St. 819-4947
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Rd. 974-2406
Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd. 382-8893

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
The hill at Hanover and High streets 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St. 430-1011
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd 436-9755
MoJo's BBQ Grill
95 Brewery Lane 436-6656
Oar House
50 Ceres St. 436-4025
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr. 430-9450
Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 431-9122
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St. 431-0148
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186
Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr. 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq. 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 436-9289
Thirsty Moose
21 Congress St. 427-8645
Wet Bar at Pages
172 Hanover St. 436-0004

Raymond
Famous Legends
4 Essex Dr. 895-4474

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road 328-9013
Coffee Coffee
326 S. Broadway 912-5381
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway 870-0045
JT's Bar and Grill
326 S. Broadway 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing 890-1032
Varsity Club
67 Main St. 898-4344

Seabrook
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd 760-7704
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Road 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd 760-7230

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 & Lower Main St. 229-1859

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
354 W. Main St. 286-4524

Weare
Boondocks Tavern & Country Grille
487 South Stark Highway 529-7747

Windham
Common Man
88 Range Road 898-0088
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28 800-892-0568
The Castleton
92 Indian Rock Rd. 800-688-5644

Brick House: James Dozet
Fury's: Strange Machines
Kelley's Row: Jamsterdam

Epping
Holy Grail: Max Sullivan

Gilford
Patrick's: Tim Theriault

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Acoustic Jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse: Live Music
Village Square: Local Live Music

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Halway to Bernie's Party w/Jah Spirit

Henniker
Sled Pub: Almost Acoustic Friday

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: DJ Alban
Tap House Grille: Live Band

Kingston
Bucco's: Root 150

Laconia
Pitman's Freight Room: Willie J. Laws Blues Band

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek
Whippersnappers: Over 6

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This year we are offering three vintage styles of our Barleywine, highly hopped with a huge malt presence, each offering different levels of complexity and ABV.
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Vance Gilbert
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ROCK THE VOTE

Several New Hampshire musicians are up for New England Music Awards, including Josh Logan (Performer), Dusty Gray (Roots Americana), A Simple Complex (Metal), Shana Stack (Country) and Brian Coombes (Producer). Fans looking to help out their favorite at the third annual awards ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. at Lowell Memorial Auditorium have until Friday, Jan. 31 — voting closes at midnight. For a full list of nominees, including the all-important Best In State prize, go to nemusicawards.com.

Manchester
99: Live Music
Breezeway Pub: DJ Mckay NRG Dance
City Sports Grille: Head Shop
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Last Kid Picked
Element: Friday Night Dance Party w/DJ Smallz
Fratello's Manchester: Steve Sibulkin
Jade Dragon: Tiger Lily (celebration Chinese best of Cover music)
Manchvegas: Big Country Party
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's Taproom: Take 4
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Penuche's: Max Voltage
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Puddle Jump
Strange Brew: Tom Ballerini
TJ's: DJ SP1 w/ Guests (MF Fridays)

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez
Jade Dragon: DJ
Pacific Fusion: Live Music

Milford
Clark's: Tess Amodeo-Vickery
J's Tavern: Brian James and the Brickyard Blues
Pasta Loft: THC

Nashua
99 Nashua: Live Music
Amsterdam: Encircle
Arena: Last Laugh / DJ Danjah
Country Tavern: Tom Rousseau
Fody's: Pilfering Pachyderm
Killarney's: Karen Grenier
Stella Blu: Live Music

New Boston
Molly's: Pete Smith/B3 (Tavern)

Newmarket
Stone Church: String Theory w/Elephant

Peterborough
Harlow's: Who'da Funk It?

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: Zombie Frogs

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Eli Eliks
British Beer Company: Six Foot Sunday
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Fat Belly's: DJ PB Kidd
Gas Light: Nightclub: Flashback Fridays w/DJ KoKoP; Gril: Don Severence; Pub: Keith Henderson
Hilton Garden: Second Shift w/ Ed Chaloux & Lou Grondin
Oar House: Bob Arens
Press Room: Spirit Family Reunion
Red Door: Alan Manzi
Ri Ra: Fighting Friday
Rudi's: Duke & John Hunter
Rusty Hammer: Live Music
Thirsty Moose: Hot Like Fire

Salem
Black Water Grill: Rick Breton & Crew

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Project 4

Sunapee
Sunapee Coffee House: EJ Tretter / Open Mic

Saturday, Feb. 1

Bedford
Shorty's: Rob & Jody

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: Rory Scott Band

Boscawen
Alan's: Live Music

Brookline
Mad Hatter: Project Mess (Benefit)

Concord
Hermanos: Joel Cage
Red Blazer: Dusty Gray Band
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Diamond Joe

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Brick House: The Easy Reasons; The Susan Constant When Particles Collide
Fury's: String Theory
Kelley's Row: Live Music
Sonny's: Joshua English/ New Legs

Epping
Holy Grail: Live Music

Epsom
Circle 9: Cricket Creek Band

Gilford
Patrick's: Jimmy and Marcelle

Hampstead
Village Square: Local Live Music

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Whisky Wild

Henniker
Sled Pub: Live Music

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: Live Music
Tap House Grille: King Chrome

Kingston
Bucco's: Live Music

Laconia
Baja Beach Club: DJ
Pitman's Freight Room: The Dave Sammarco Band

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joe McDonald
Whippersnappers: Live Music

Manchester
Derryfield: Nimbus 9
Element: Dance Party with DJ Smallz
Fratello's Manchester: Steve Tolley
Jade Dragon MHT: Groove Alliance
Mad Bob's: Yankee Cockfight/To The Gallows/Orb Mellon
Manchvegas: Lisa Guyer & Nate Comp
Midnight Rodeo: Tattoo Cowboy
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's Taproom: Monkeys With Hammers
N'awlins Grille: Live Jazz
Penuche's: Charlie The Most
Raxx: DJ Mike
Salona: Talon
Shaskeen: Age Against The Machine
Strange Brew: Erin Harpe & the Delta Swingers
Wild Rover: Sundogs

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff
Jade Dragon: SoulMates

Milford
Clark's: Shawn Taylor
J's Tavern: Live Music
Pasta Loft: Mike & Tom

Nashua
Amsterdam: Pat Gendron
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Live Music
Fody's: Chuck n John Band
Stella Blu: Live Music

Newmarket
Stone Church: Mighty Mystic w/Soul Rebel Project

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: 3 Mile Island/ Maybrick/Grace Under Fire

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Live Music
British Beer Company: DJ S.O.B
Dolphin Striker: George Belli & Retroactivists
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Gas Light: Grill: Scott McRae; Pizza Pub: Drew Yount
Oar House: Don Severance
Portsmouth Book & Bar: James Connolly Book & Music Event



LAUGHTER CAUSE

A polished veteran of the highly competitive Boston comedy scene, Stephen Bjork performs a benefit show at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St., Nashua 320-5393) on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. His material is intelligent; sometimes absurd, and always accessible, but first and foremost it is funny. While so many comedians think working clean means simply omitting the F-bomb, Bjork takes everyday life and turns it upside down in a way that every demographic in any given audience can enjoy. $10 tickets are available at comedyonpurpose.com.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Jan. 30

Derry
Halligan Tavern: Sam Ike w/ Kyle Crawford

Saturday, Feb. 1

Manchester
Headliners: Louis Ramey

Portsmouth
Music Hall: Capitol Steps

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Dover
Cara: Tip Jar Comedy w/ Jay Grove

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: Open Mic Comedy

Seabrook
Honey Pot: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Thursday, Feb. 6

Derry
Halligan Tavern: Kevin Cotter w/ Jeff Young

Hampton
Old Salt: Brad Mastrangelo/ Doug Blay

Friday, Feb. 7

Concord
Capitol Center: Bill Cosby

Saturday, Feb. 8

Dover
Cara: Johnny Pizzi

Londonderry
Tupelo: Rich Ceisler and Will Noonan

Manchester
Headliners: Michael Young Chow (Krazy Korean)

Sunday, Feb. 9

Raymond
Veronica Laffs: Steve Bjork/ Kyle Crawford/Bryce Hanson

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Dover
Cara: Tip Jar Comedy, Jay Grove

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: Open Mic Comedy

Thursday, Feb. 13

Derry
Halligan Tavern: Open Mic Comedy

Nashua
Fody's: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, Feb. 14

Manchester
Headliners: Dueling Pianos

Milford
Clark's: Jody Sloane/Matt Barry - Love Stinks

Portsmouth
Music Hall: Mike McDonald's Comedy Xxtravaganza
Sheraton: Mike Koutrobis

Raymond
Veronica Laffs: Jody Sloane (Love Stinks Anti-Valentine)

Saturday, Feb. 15

Laconia
Pitman's: Tony V and Derek Richards

Manchester
Headliners: Mick Thomas

Nashua
Chunky's Pub: Jim Lauletta/ Mike Prior/Matt Barry

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Dover
Cara: Tip Jar Comedy w/ Jay Grove

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: Open Mic Comedy

Thursday, Feb. 20

Hudson
Soho: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

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Sat., February 1
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GA

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Fri., February 7
8:00 p.m.
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GA

STEVE, MARTY & JOEY

Rockin' Kids' Music & More



Sat., February 8
12:00 p.m.
$7
GA

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Featuring Rich Ceisler, Will Noonan & Benjamin Tufts



Sat., February 8
8:00 p.m.
$18
RS-Tables

RICK DERRINGER



Fri., February 14
8:00 p.m. • $40 • RS-Theater

ENTRAIN



Sat., February 15
8:00 p.m. • $25 • GA

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Featuring PJ Thibodeau & John Morris



Fri., February 21
8:00 p.m.
$18
RS-Tables

STANLEY CLARKE



Sat., February 22
8:00 p.m.
$60/$65
RS-Theater

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Featuring Frank Santorelli and Mitch Stinson



Fri., March 7
8:00 p.m.
$18
RS-Tables

FRANCIS DUNNERY



Sat., March 8
8:00 p.m.
$25
RS-Tables

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Full Schedules and Tickets: **TupeloHall.com**

088211

RHYTHM SERVED



Big time funksters **Charlie the Most** perform on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 9 p.m. at Penuche's. The band includes a full horn section, two guitarists, and vocals that will have you begging for seconds. Led by Boston guitarist Charlie McCanless, the group is a delicious, flash-fried, home-cooked, mashed potato ten-person funk ensemble taking over the world one epic show at a time, feeding audiences glorious and harmonious amusement with powerful grooves, impeccable talent, and a raucous party fervor. 96 Hanover St., Hanover 626-9830.

Press Room: Live Music
Red Door: Chris Luzz
Ri Ra: Beantown Project
Rudi's: PJ Donahue Trio
Thirsty Moose: Jamsterdam

Salem
Black Water Grill: Live Music

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Live Bullet "Bob Seger" Tribute

Weare
Boondocks: Tore Down House

Sunday, Feb. 2

Bedford
Copper Door: Cosmo Funday Live Music

Concord
Hermanos: Mike Alberici

Dover
Brick House: Live Jazz Brunch with Jim Dozet Trio
Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz Series w/Chris O'Neill

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: Live Music

Manchester
Milly's: DJ
Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
Social 24: Sunday Funday Winter Jam Sessions
Strange Brew: The Shadows

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Fat Belly's: Joe Young
Rudi's: Jazz Brunch w/ Sharon Jones

Monday, Feb. 3

Concord
Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais

Manchester
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe
Milly's: DJ

Merrimack
Homestead: Charlie Christos

Newmarket
Stone Church: Sinful Blues - Open Blues Jam

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Concord
Barley House: Irish Sessions
Hermanos: Joe Rillo Duo

Dover
Cara: Open Bluegrass/Americana
Fury's: Tim Theriault and Friends

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: VJ Mark

Manchester
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Milly's: Live Music
N'awlins Grille: Dom The Sax Man
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Aldous Collins
Strange Brew: Strange Brew All Stars

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/Dave Talmage

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Honky Tonk Tuesdays
Dolphin Striker: Dave Gerard
Press Room: Larry Garland Jazz Jam

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Concord
Hermanos: Joe Rillo Duo

Dover
Fury's: Badwolf
Sonny's: Jimmy Farquhar's Autumn Attics

Gilford
Patrick's: Justin Jaymes

Hampton
Wally's Pub: 90's Dance party w/DJ Provo

Manchester
Fratello's: Brandon Lepere
Milly's: DJ
N'awlins Grille: Dom The Sax Man
Strange Brew: James Keyes

Merrimack
Homestead: Brian Gray
Pacific Fusion: Joe McDonald

Milford
Clark's: Lisa Guyer
J's Tavern: Eric Neilson

Nashua
Killarney's: Kieran McNally
Wicked Twisted: Wicked Twisted Blues Band Jam

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Live Music
Red Door: Evaredy Ladies Night
Ri Ra: Great Bay Sailor
Rudi's: Solo Dimitri on Piano
Thirsty Moose: Waylon Speed's Kelly Ravin Trio

Weare
Boondocks: Blues Jam w/ Paul Spera, Junie Belanger & Mickey McGuire

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to **music@hippopress.com**. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

NITE CONCERTS

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whittcenter.com

- **Bela Fleck and Brooklyn Rider** Thu., Jan. 30 at 7:30, Dana Center
- **NRBQ** Thu., Jan. 30 at 8, Tupelo
- **Jason Aldean/Florida Georgia Line** Thu., Jan. 30 at 8, Verizon Wireless Arena
- **Bela Fleck with Brooklyn Rider** Fri., Jan. 31 at 8, Colonial Theatre
- **Darlingside** Fri., Jan. 31 at 8, Music Hall
- **Bruce In The USA (Springsteen Cover Band)** Fri., Jan. 31 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Max Creek** Fri., Jan. 31 at 8, Tupelo
- **Peacheaters & Playin' Dead** Sat., Feb. 1 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Capitol Steps** Sat., Feb. 1 at 8, Music Hall
- **Melissa Ferrick** Sat., Feb. 1 at 8, Tupelo
- **Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherman** Wed., Feb. 5 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Red Hot Chilli Pipers** Thu., Feb. 6 at 7:30, Cap Center
- **Guitar Passion w/ Sharon Isbin, Stanley Jordan & Romero Lubambo** Thu., Feb. 6 at 8, Music Hall
- **Open Mic Celebrity Series Featuring Mary Lou Lord** Thu., Feb. 6 at 8, Tupelo
- **Bill Cosby** Fri., Feb. 7 at 8, Cap Center
- **Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes** Fri., Feb. 7 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Motor Booty Affair** Fri., Feb. 7 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **James Montgomery Band** Fri., Feb. 7 at 8, Tupelo
- **Lori McKenna** Sat., Feb. 8 at 8, Silver Center
- **Steve Blunt** Sat., Feb. 8 at 12, Tupelo
- **Comedy-Rich Ceisler/Marty Kelly** Sat., Feb. 8 at 8, Tupelo
- **Bill Cosby** Sun., Feb. 9 at 7:30, Cap Center
- **Doktor Kaboom** Sun., Feb. 9 at 7, Cap Center
- **Rain - Tribute to the Beatles** Tue., Feb. 11 at 7, Cap Center
- **Defending the Caveman** Fri., Feb. 14 at 7, Cap Center
- **Rhythm of the Dance - National Dance Theatre of Ireland** Fri., Feb. 14 at 7:30, Dana Center
- **Gaudy Baubles** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Music Hall
- **Mike McDonald Comedy Xxtravaganza** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Music Hall
- **Spirit of Johnny Cash** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Rick Derringer** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Tupelo
- **Juston McKinney** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Entrain** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Tupelo
- **Brad Paisley/Chris Young** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Verizon Wireless Arena
- **Peter Asher** Thu., Feb. 20 at 7, Cap Center
- **Pearl & the Beard** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Cap Center
- **Figgs** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Music Hall
- **PJ Thibodeau and John Morris** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Tupelo
- **New England Music Awards** Sat., Feb. 22 at 7, Lowell Memorial Auditorium
- **Holly Williams (Sold Out)** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Music Hall
- **Frank Santos (R-Rated Hypnotist)** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Stanley Clarke** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Tupelo
- **Dweezil Zappa** Thu., Feb. 27 at 7, Cap Center
- **Gaelic Storm** Fri., Feb. 28 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Joe Yannitti (Comedy)** Sat., Mar. 1 at 8, Cap Center
- **Paula Poundstone** Sat., March 1 at 8, Music Hall
- **Gaelic Storm** Sun., March 2 at 8, Music Hall
- **Josh Ritter** Tue., March 4 at 7:30, Lebanon Opera House



JERSEY JUKE

In a business where success is defined as getting a second single, surviving for 30-plus years is a rare accomplishment. But Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, performing Friday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester 668-5588), have flourished, with over 30 albums, several EPs and a box set; thousands of live performances around the globe; a legion of dedicated and enthusiastic fans; dozens of classic songs. Tickets are $64.50 (pre-show meet and greet), $49.50, $39.50 and $24.50.



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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Wild Tales*, by Graham Nash, born Feb. 2, 1942.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *I also wrote "Cowboy of Dreams" around that time. David and I had given Neil a present of two black swans for the lake on his ranch. I don't know where we got them, but they were stunning creatures—and they were immediately eaten by coyotes. Those are the birds in that song.* Keep an eye out for coyotes.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *David ate earlier than I did. He's a breakfast person, and I'm not. Breakfast, for me, comes around noon.* Breakfast is as breakfast does.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Our four Martin guitars always sat on stands at the side of the stage, and when David Lindley launched into an extended violin solo ... his playing caused all of the guitars to resonate on the same note; they were shaking and buzzing like crazy. Instead of stopping, Lindley played right along with them, expertly altering the melody of his riff.* Things will resonate. Play along.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *One day, I got on the elevator with no less of a legend than Groucho Marx. I was paralyzed. Couldn't say a word, not even "Good morning, Mr. Marx." The Chateau was one of those places. It let people be who they wanted to be.* Be who you want to be!

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *I know what you're thinking: Didn't we learn a thing or two about four superegos trying to coexist in one studio? Why in heaven's name were we gonna do that again? But it's the music. It's* always *the music.* Sing all you want but watch out for the big egos.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *People are great, they fascinate me no end, but sometimes all that chatter is difficult to bear.* Limit your chattering to social hour, where it will do some good.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I used to sit in the branches of a small tree in the park. It was safe there, no one to bother me. I can still feel the movement of the swaying branches. Just me and a tree. Away from it all. Perfect.* Take some time to get away from it all.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Of course, three hippies wired to their eyeballs in a snowbound cabin for a month—sooner or later, someone's gonna snap.* Think ahead and plan accordingly.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *I took it [*The Music of Bulgaria*] home, and it instantly became my favorite record of all time in terms of musical harmony. In my London apartment, I had an incredible sound system: two Brunell tape recorders in each corner. And when I played this record, the music went from the turntable into the first tape recorder, then through the second tape recorder into the speakers, so that everything was a microsecond off — but brilliantly so.* A little bit off might be right on if you mix it right.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *In my Hollies days, an album consisted of your twelve hits lumped together to sell mass quantities of consumable music. ... The new approach was to view an album as a tabula rasa. 'Let's draw this beautiful picture on it.' It no longer had to be twelve familiar but unrelated pieces of music.* Consider the whole picture.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Having paintbrushes in my hand, I discovered, was the same energy as having a guitar in my hands. Just a different tool. And I could express myself in a different way with those brushes.* Why limit your creativity?

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) *This was the first I'd ever heard about her ambitions beyond being a housewife and raising a family. I hadn't realized she had her dreams, too.* Other people's ambitions and dreams may turn out to be important.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		1				2		
			3		8			
8				4				6
	1		2		5		9	
		6		3		5		
	3		8		1		2	
5				9				8
			5		2			
		4				9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/30

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

1/23

2	4	1	6	9	7	8	3	5
9	3	6	5	8	4	7	1	2
5	7	8	1	2	3	6	9	4
8	1	9	3	6	5	2	4	7
7	2	3	8	4	9	1	5	6
6	5	4	2	7	1	9	8	3
1	8	7	4	3	6	5	2	9
4	6	5	9	1	2	3	7	8
3	9	2	7	5	8	4	6	1

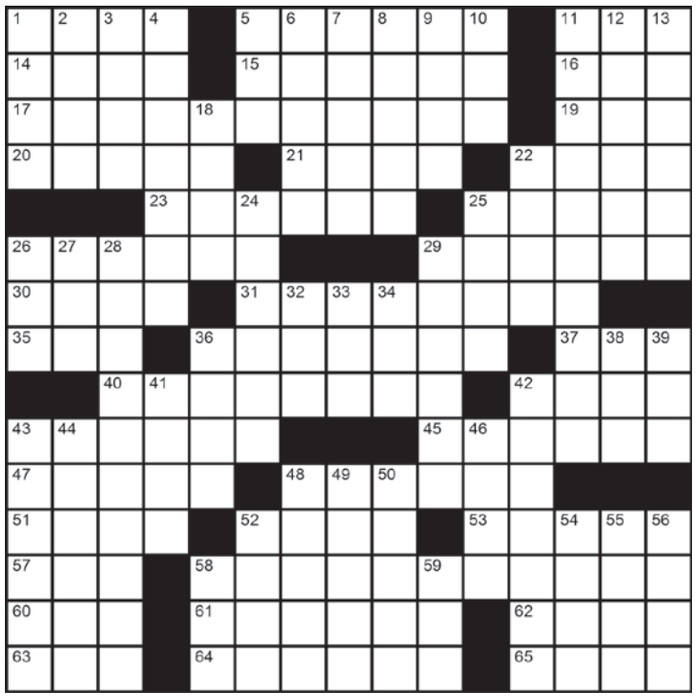
Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/23

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"A PX Upon You" — the same from start to finish

Across

1 Salon cut?
5 More crafty
11 "Batman" fight scene word
14 1995 role for Kenneth Branagh
15 Jumpsuit hue
16 Chapter of history
17 House funding?
19 "Excitebike" gaming platform
20 Put some muscle into cleaning
21 No-wheel-drive vehicle
22 It may be used in a pinch
23 Occupation with its own category of jokes
25 Disloyal
26 Smoothie ingredient, often
29 On the agenda
30 Winter exclamation
31 Barely make it
35 Compete like Ted Ligety
36 "Her" star Joaquin
37 Meadow murmur
40 Stuffed animal of the '80s
42 Dix or Knox
43 First game
45 "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" author Sherman
47 Like pickle juice
48 Moved like a crowd, with "about"
51 "___ of Anarchy"
52 Strip in the news
53 Anthony Edwards, in "Top Gun"
57 Pet Shop Boys song "West ___ Girls"
58 Cause of subzero temperatures in the US in 2014
60 Fr. holy title
61 Cheese in some bagels
62 "Take ___ from me..."
63 "Red" or "White" team
64 Bond's martini preference
65 Just meh



Down

1 Doesn't throw back
2 Traffic cop?
3 "Frankenstein" assistant
4 Well-liked
5 "___ blimey!"
6 Quirkily creative
7 "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" singer Crystal
8 Latin for "between"
9 Posh exclamation
10 Harrison of "My Fair Lady"
11 The sin bin
12 "Otherwise, I might do something you'll regret!"
13 Trashed
18 "Electronics, Cars, Fashion, Collectibles, Coupons and More" website
22 Swedish car brand founded in 1945
24 Laundromat fixture
25 Show off "these bad boys"
26 "Frontline" network
27 Early boat
28 Economist's average
29 Quarterback's pass, hopefully
32 Corn-centric zone?
33 "Riddle-me-___" (line in a children's rhyme)
34 Gasteyer of "Suburgatory"
36 The hunted
38 Onassis' nickname
39 Took in take-out, e.g.
41 Curry and Wilson
42 Hipsters' hats
43 Get way too into, with "over"
44 Now if not sooner
46 Block you don't want to step on in bare feet
48 Radiance, to the Secret Service
49 "The Compleat Angler" author Walton
50 Onion rings option
52 "Heavens!"
54 "The Simpsons" character always shown wearing a walkman
55 Six of Juan?
56 Former Montreal baseball player
58 Faux ___
59 Actor Max ___ Sydow

1/23

S	P	R	Y	■	S	E	E	M	■	B	A	R	B	Q
A	L	O	E	■	U	S	D	A	■	A	L	B	E	E
L	O	L	A	■	N	A	T	S	■	I	L	I	A	D
T	W	E	R	K	T	I	V	I	S	T	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	I	Z	■	■	■	A	C	E	L	L	S
■	C	R	O	N	U	T	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
B	R	O	O	K	■	A	T	W	A	R	■	T	O	A
R	I	N	K	■	O	R	R	I	N	■	H	T	T	P
U	M	A	■	B	R	O	I	L	■	W	A	L	E	S
S	E	L	F	I	E	S	P	L	A	I	N	E	D	■
H	A	D	A	G	O	■	■	■	R	P	G	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	S	T	I	C	L	E	N	A	D	O
M	O	U	L	D	■	O	B	O	E	■	A	C	A	D
C	A	N	O	E	■	M	E	M	E	■	I	N	T	O
A	R	E	N	A	■	S	T	A	N	■	L	E	A	R

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the Hippo

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Send press releases (that include time, dates and location of the event plus contact information for the public and, if different, contact information for our reporters) to news@hippopress.com.

That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach her by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Book Editor, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
- **Food** — Send information about new restaurants, new menus, new chefs, chef and restaurant awards, food events, wine tastings, beer and wine making, cook-offs and other food competitions to food@hippopress.com
- **Listings** — Send information on events and classes for kids, continuing education for adults, fitness and health classes and events, local museum events and exhibits, volunteer needs and more to listings@hippopress.com. Please send information intended for listings section at least two weeks before the publication date (Hippo publishes every Thursday) before the event. Please note that due to space constraints, not all listings run every week.
- **Music** — Send information on upcoming live music performances, bands, new CD releases, comedy nights, DJs and karaoke nights, nightlife events and concert series to music@hippopress.com.
- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 36.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement. The space reservation deadline is Friday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at noon. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

LINE CLASSIFIED ADS

Contact our classified ad department at classifieds@hippopress.com or 625-1855 ext. 25. The deadline for classifieds is Monday at noon.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Going postal

America's returning warriors continue to experience inexplicable difficulty after putting their lives at risk for their country. It took 13 years for Army Sgt. Maj. Richard Erickson to get his job back from his civilian employer after he took leave in 2000 to serve in the National Guard special forces. The employer soon fired him for taking "excessive military leave." The employer? The U.S. Postal Service, for which Erickson worked as a window clerk (and which was forced to reinstate him after a January 2014 ruling awarding him $2 million in back pay). Erickson had won several interim victories, but USPS fought each one, extending the case, and said in January that it might even appeal the latest ruling.

Recurring themes

• Happy New Year: (1) Once again, celebrants in France marked Jan. 1 by setting fire to 1,067 cars nationwide (down from 1,193 the previous Jan. 1). (2) In the Hillbrow neighborhood of Johannesburg, South Africa, celebrants apparently decided to abandon a 20-year-old tradition and not hurl furniture from high-rise apartments. (The Hillbrow custom was highlighted on one social-networking website, along with the New Year's graveyard gathering of relatives in Chile and Ireland's banging bread on walls to dispel evil spirits.)

• Holy mutations: Deformed animals born in developing countries often attract streams of pilgrims, seeking to touch a creature considered divinely blessed. In December, a five-legged cow in Raipur, India, had supposedly "caused" the last 30 women who touched it to give birth to boys. And a day after that report came one from Phuket, Thailand, in which a newborn gecko with six legs and two heads has become a magnet for visitors seeking clues to winning lottery numbers.

• In November the Journal-News of Hamilton, Ohio, examining various police union contracts in the state, learned that in several jurisdictions, officers are allowed to work their shifts even when less sober than some drivers whom they ticket for DUI. In Lebanon, Ohio, for instance, cops can work with a .04 blood-alcohol reading. In Butler County, a .04 reading triggers legal protections for officers that are unavailable to ordinary drivers. (However, in Lebanon, an officer's right to suck on a breath mint before taking the test was recently removed from the contract.)

• The Continuing British Campaign to Abolish Risks: (1) Britain's Royal Mail announced in December that it would stop delivery to Jeff and Sheila White's cottage in Carnforth because the carrier was frightened of cows. (Mrs. White said he was just lazy, in that when the cows were present, the carrier had to open and close a gate to get to their cottage.) (2) A 65-year-old school crossing guard resigned in October from a job he said he liked because officials at Manadon Vale Primary School had ordered him to stop playfully "high-fiving" students. Guards, the school said, need both arms free to hold signs and make proper signals.

• News of the Weird has reported the emerging mainstream treatment (for various bowel disorders) of fecal transplants, in which a healthier relative "donates" via enema supposedly healthier microbes to a sickly patient to normalize intestinal activity. The process, still strange to many patients despite its apparent success, has become so popular that in October Canadian officials felt the need to warn patients not to perform amateur transplants. Said one mother after successfully having her 10-year-old daughter treated, "I think one day ... we will have fecal-matter banks like (blood banks and sperm banks)."

Unclear on the Concept

In December, after Carmen Reategui, 34, was arrested for DUI in Readington Township, N.J., and was too impaired to drive home, she called Nina Petracca, 23, who arrived at the police station impaired herself (and was arrested for DUI), and both women called Ryan Hogan, 33, to take them home, but he also arrived impaired and was arrested.

Classics

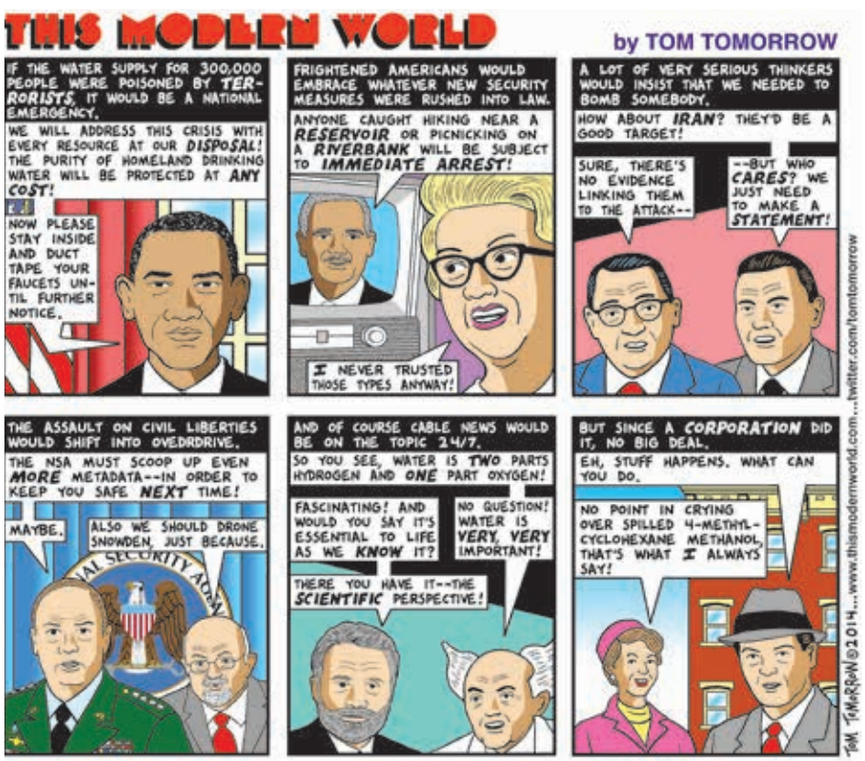
Jamal Garrett, 29, was arrested in Antioch, Calif., in January after, police said, he tried to rob a Wells Fargo bank, but had fled empty-handed after a teller struggled to read a poorly written hold-up note. (She and her manager said they did not even know immediately if it was a holdup or just a note requesting assistance.)

Daniel Severn, 27, pleaded guilty to burglary in England's Hull Crown Court in December, for trying to enter a home through the roof but getting trapped, upside down, in the bathroom. He dug his phone out of his pocket, but it fell into the toilet, and he remained hanging for an hour and a half until a resident arrived and found him.

Update

Unrelenting, swastika-tattooed New Jersey neo-Nazi Heath Campbell, 40, saw child No. 9 born in November, and once again, the county family welfare office removed it almost immediately. "I'm not allowed to have children because I'm a Nazi," he lamented. Campbell first made headlines in 2008 when a bakery declined to decorate a birthday cake for his son, Adolf Hitler Campbell, leading child welfare officials to investigate, and more seizures followed, now including the November-born Eva (Lynn Patricia) Braun. Campbell told reporters he would continue to fight for offspring. "I'll stop making them when they stop taking them."

Visit newsoftheweird.universe.net.



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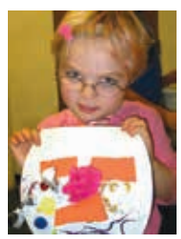
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